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TODAY IN Arab news

Plant dedication
King Fahd will dedicate the Al-Razi methanol plant in Jubail, which went into operation recently, during the National Industries Week. — Page 2

Nonaligned issue
Getting Soviet troops out of Afghanistan will be the main issue at a nonaligned governments' summit in New Delhi, an Indian ambassador predicts. — Page 5

Hooper stretched
Big serving Chip Hooper packed too many guns for Brazilian Marcos Hoever in the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships. Hooper ached Hoever 22 times, before prevailing in an extended duel in Memphis. — Page 9

Japan car exports
Japan announces that it will limit car exports to the United States and Canada this year and says a joint car production deal between Toyota and General Motors will help the U.S.-motor industry. — Page 14

Assam massacre
The reported weekend massacre of at least 100 persons by tribesmen using bows, arrows, axes and spears and new violence Tuesday overshadowed voting in Assam in one of India's bloodiest elections since independence. — Page 20

Seek end to Gulf war, U.S. tells Iraq

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP) — The United States has called on Iraq to negotiate with Iran a settlement of their 2½-year-old war — in the interest of stability in the Gulf.

Secretary of State George Shultz on Monday made this appeal to Iraqi Foreign Minister Saddam Hammadi, who was in Washington on a private visit, an American official said.

Shultz also told Hammadi that the United States will continue to stay neutral in the war and refuse to furnish military supplies to either side. Iraq inflicted severe losses on the Iranian Army last week in stopping the latest offensive, American military specialists said.

They said the Tehran leaders apparently counted on a rapid and successful assault aimed at cutting the Baghdad-Basra Highway 60 kms from Iran's border. Pentagon experts said the Iraqis were poorly equipped to cross the Tigris River.

"If the Iraqis had succeeded in taking the highway, the Ayatollah (Khomeini) would have dealt a severe blow to Iraq as it is a vital link between Baghdad and the other Gulf states which have given Iraq a substantial amount of military aid," Col. William Staudenmaier of the U.S. Military Academy said.

The American analysts were especially surprised by Iraq's hesitation in using its advanced fighter-bombers which outnumber Iranian aircraft four to one. "We don't understand why the Iraqis didn't use their Soviet MiGs and their French Mirage planes more often and more efficiently, especially since many of Iran's American-built fighters are no longer operational."

The land war between Baghdad and Tehran appears to be a war of attrition in which troop morale could be the decisive factor, Pentagon sources said. The American analysts said the recent Iranian offensive was not the first time that Tehran's forces have suffered heavy losses.

Maggie pleads for Pym's visit

DOHA, Feb. 15 (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was said here Monday to have asked King Fahd to reschedule a postponed visit to the Kingdom by Foreign Secretary Francis Pym.

The Qatar News Agency, in a report from London quoting "British diplomatic sources," said the request was communicated to Fahd Sunday by James Craig, London's ambassador to Riyadh.

Craig delivered a message to the King which expressed Thatcher's regret over the deterioration of Saudi-British relations in recent months, particularly the cancellation of Pym's scheduled Gulf tour in January because of a political controversy over the Palestine Liberation Organization, the report said.

Thatcher has refused to meet any PLO official until the organization accepts Israel's right to exist. This position has led to repeated postponements of a visit to London by a seven-member Arab League delegation and to a Saudi statement that Pym would not be welcome, with the British government eventually opting to put off indefinitely Pym's Gulf tour.

The British prime minister's message reportedly sought to convince Fahd the stance on the PLO was to the advantage of the cause of peace in the Middle East, citing in this connection Britain's authoring of United Nations resolution 242 of 1967, accepted to this day as the main basis for an eventual Arab-Israeli settlement.



Margaret Thatcher

Until peace is achieved Fight against Israel to continue--Arafat

ALGIERS, Feb. 15 (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat vowed to pursue the political and military struggle against Israel "until a just peace has been achieved and the Palestinian flag is hoisted atop the mosques and churches of Jerusalem."

Addressing the 360-member Palestinian parliament-in-exile, Arafat reviled the United States for "instigating the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the atrocious massacre of Palestinians and Lebanese" in the Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila.

The week-long session of the Palestine National Council, meeting in the International Conference Center, 24-kilometers west of the Algerian capital, is discussing for the first time the PLO's conditions for peace and mutual recognition with Israel.

"Peace will be achieved by an independent decision of our people, taken through the barrel of a gun," Arafat shouted. The remark drew tumultuous applause from the delegates and from more than 3,000 invited guests from all parts of the world.

The principal guest of honor was Algeria's President Chadli Benjedid.

"This meeting is held in open defiance of the American-Zionist conspiracy against our people and our revolution," Arafat declared. "The Americans want to undermine our aspirations, liquidate the Palestine Liberation Organization and crush our struggle."

But he did not mention President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan which he has repeatedly described in the past as containing "positive points." The Reagan plan, calling for Palestinian self-government in association with Jordan, was to be intensively discussed by the PNC.

Arafat exalted "the spirit of national unity" among the PLO's eight constituent factions, declaring that "unity is the sole guarantee of victory."

"The independent Palestinian decision, free from any external pressure, is our only path to victory," Arafat said. "The armed struggle will be supplemented by political efforts."

He stressed that it was "vitally important" for the PLO to retain its independent decision-making power "without any guardianship or hegemony or containment by any power."

Arafat addressed a message to the entire Arab world to "mobilize all your potential and face the challenge of destiny in this perilous stage of our struggle. I tell the Arab world that we want the peace of the strong, because there is no peace for the weak, nor can there be any peace for those who crawl."

He stressed "We do not fight for the sake of fighting, nor reject for the sake of rejection. We fight for our freedom and our peace."

"We turn to the whole world to stand by us against the Israeli aggression, and we reaffirm that there will be no peace, no stability and no solution (in the Middle East) by stepping over the Palestinian people and ignoring their basic, inalienable rights."

"The peace we seek is one of justice, the justice that satisfies our right to self-determination in an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

He said the PLO's adherence to the principle of confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state to be established in the West Bank and Gaza "stems from our belief in total Arab unity."

On Tuesday Arafat clashed bitterly with Ahmad Jibril. Palestinian informants said the two men became involved in an acrimonious exchange.

Gold jumps to 2-year high

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R) — Gold rose to its highest for nearly two years Tuesday as the dollar lost some of its recent strength and eased against all major currencies.

At the London morning fix by bullion houses, gold was quoted at \$311.50 an ounce, nearly \$10 above Monday's close and its best level since April 9, 1981. The afternoon fixing price was slightly lower at \$309.25.

The dollar weakened against the West German mark, trading at 2.3950 marks nearly two pence down from Monday.

Dealers said European foreign exchange markets were nervous in expectation of a cut, possibly this week, in the U.S. discount rate and uncertainty over what Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker will say when he testifies to Congress Wednesday.

The dollar dipped below two Swiss francs, buying 1.9880 francs after 2.0182 at Monday's close. Sterling was one cent stronger at \$1.5493, while the French franc gained eight centimes at 6.7900 to the dollar.

April gold futures were trading at around \$518.50 an ounce, and analysts said the metal was moving in a resistance band around \$510-515, which if broken could signal an advance of up to \$50.

Army deployed to restore Gemayel's writ in E. Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — Thousands of Lebanese government troops Tuesday took over security duties in East Beirut from the Christian militiamen who have ruled there since the civil war of 1975-76.

The move, carried out under a new government decree giving the army sweeping powers to maintain law and order, symbolized the return of government authority to the whole of Beirut for the first time in eight years.

The government had been able to recover control of West Beirut last September after Israel invaded Lebanon and besieged West Beirut.

Christian sources said the army deployment was negotiated with the militiamen, who are now forbidden from moving around East Beirut in military vehicles, wearing uniform or carrying weapons.

But the sources said the militia headquarters would remain where it is in the heart of East Beirut.

The sources said armed militiamen in uniform would be allowed to guard the headquarters. Uniformed gunners were on duty as normal Tuesday morning there and at a militia center close to what used to be the main front line with West Beirut. The sources said the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia would retain control for the time being of part of Beirut port and of a municipal property registration office, taxes from which provide much of the militia's income.

Radios and newspapers said three brigades of the Lebanese Army numbering some 4,000 men moved in early Tuesday morning after the Cabinet issued a decree giving the army widespread new powers.

President Amin Gemayel, wearing army uniform went to the three brigades' temporary camp near Beirut airport during the night to give the order to deploy in East Beirut.

The president whose family's Phalangist Party dominates the Christian militia, told the troops: "We want to succeed in unifying the capital. We want to succeed in unifying the hearts of the Lebanese."

By mid-morning the government troops had set up sandbagged checkpoints with armored personnel carriers on main roads leading into East Beirut and its suburbs.

Meanwhile, military sources denied reports Tuesday from Israel that the Lebanese government had agreed that the Israeli-backed militia of renegade Maj. Saad Haddad should become part of the regular Lebanese army.

"There are discussions going on within the context of the (U.S., Israeli and Lebanese) negotiations. But definitely no agreement whatsoever has been reached on the issue," said the sources, who asked not to be named.

The sources said that Gemayel's government had indicated in the past that the 300 former soldiers who have been with Haddad in southern Lebanon since he broke away from the army in the 1975-76 Civil War might be pardoned and taken back into the army.

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NATO rejects Soviet offer

BRUSSELS, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — The NATO allies have officially rejected as inadequate the latest Soviet proposal on curbing medium-range nuclear missiles and regard Moscow's attitude at the Geneva arms control talks as disappointing. NATO does not expect any new moves from the Soviet Union until after the West German elections next month but it is not excluding the possibility that Moscow is considering a serious compromise proposal, diplomats said.

U.S. and Western European officials have

France, Italy agree on summit

PARIS, Feb. 15 (R) — Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani Tuesday accepted a French proposal for a summit conference of Western Mediterranean states that would concentrate on problems raised by enlargement of the European Community.

President Francois Mitterrand of France, concerned by the repercussions for southern Europe of entry by Spain and Portugal into the community, proposed the idea of a Mediterranean littoral summit while on a visit to Morocco last month.

Speaking at a press conference after a two-day meeting with Mitterrand devoted to strengthening Franco-Italian ties, Fanfani said his government was favorable to the proposal.

Mitterrand answering questions, said France was still sounding out North African and European countries over the meeting which would probably not take place until after the next Western economic summit in late May. French officials said it had not yet been decided which countries should attend.

Mitterrand said the meeting would tackle issues raised by community enlargement for European countries as well as for Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, already linked to southern Europe through trade and labor accords.

U.K. oil price cut imminent

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R) — Britain is expected to cut the price of its North Sea oil Friday in the first such move by a major producer in the present oil glut crisis, industry sources said Tuesday.

Britain's state oil trading company, the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), Tuesday teleaxed customers that it expected to be in a position to make a recommendation on the North Sea price by Friday.

Oil analysts said a British price cut would have an immediate effect on world oil prices and could prompt swift action by the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cut its own rates.

BNOC would make no comment Tuesday on the size of the likely price cut. But industry sources anticipate a reduction of around \$3.50 a barrel to put the price of British fories crude, pumped from offshore platforms due east of the Scottish mainland, at \$30 a barrel. This compares with an official OPEC market price of \$34 a barrel and a \$35.50 tag for comparable high quality African crudes.

Fahd receives Bahraini premier

RIYADH, Feb. 15 (SPA) — King Fahd received Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Bahrain's prime minister, and an accompanying delegation.

The premier delivered a message from the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa to the King. Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Muhammad Al-Khalifa said the message dealt with bilateral relations in particular and the current situation in the Middle East in general.

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Jubail chemical plant dedication planned

RIYADH, Feb. 15 (SPA) — King Fahd will dedicate the Al-Razi methanol plant in Jubail during National Industries week. The plant went into operation three days ago.

A statement was made Monday by Dr. Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, the minister of industry and electricity and board chairman of the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation as he signed the contract for the creation of the National Industrial Gas Company with a private sector consortium.

Dr. Al-Gosaibi told reporters that industrial programs in Saudi Arabia were not affected by the reduction of oil production and price. The projects were fully financed and the amounts allocated for them secured, he said, adding that production levels of gas fueling the country's industry will be maintained, more than enough to cover the local needs.

The minister said that among the major industrial projects to be opened during the week will be an iron and steel plant in Jubail.

There will also be industrial exhibitions in the main cities and an intensive information campaign to acquaint the public with the progress of national industry. That campaign will continue after the week.

Meanwhile, *Okaz* reported Tuesday that the King will hand over the prizes, March 1 to winners of the King Faisal Prize. Winners were selected at a meeting of the board of trustees of Faisal Philanthropic Foundation under Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal, the elder son of the late king. The winners included Sbeik Hassanin Muhammad Makhloof of Egypt and Tengku Abdul Rahman of Malaysia who won the international prize for the service of Islam (SR300,000 to each winner); Dr. Abdul Khaleq Azima who won the prize for Islamic studies (SR250,000); Professor Wallace Peters who was awarded the prize for medicine (SR250,000); and Dr. Shawqi Daif (the prize for literature SR250,000).

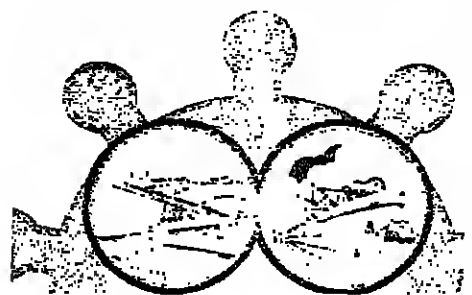
Cabinet debates new budget; welfare projects emphasized

RIYADH, Feb. 15 (SPA) — The Council of Ministers, meeting under King Fahd Monday night, discussed the outlines of next year's state budget, a spokesman said after the meeting.

The spokesman, Hussein Mansouri, the

minister of communications and acting information minister, said King Fahd gave his directives that the budget should be drawn up in the light of the third five-year development plan with specific emphasis on vital projects having a bearing on the citizens' welfare.

Planning Minister Hisham Nazer briefed the cabinet on achievements under the previous plan and expectations for the coming one. The cabinet also heard a report from Muhammad Abo Al-Khalil, the minister of finance and national economy, on the economic situation and the broad lines of the next budget.



Tihama issues shipping guide

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Feb. 15 — Tihama Advertising Company, which also conducts public relations and marketing research, has issued a guide on shipping companies and maritime shipping agents in Saudi Arabia. Tihama is producing a series of such guides on various trades.

A Tihama spokesman said that the new guide gives the shipping, ports and other regulations in Saudi Arabia and gives the names and addresses of all shipping companies and agents in the Kingdom in Arabic and English.

The seven-chapter guide will be on sale soon in book shops and distributing centers. Tihama already publishes "Who's Who in Saudi Arabia," "Tihama Economic Guide," "Riyadh City Guide," "Banks Guide," "Investments Guide," "Hotel Guide," and a special guide on airline companies and tourist travel agencies in Jeddah.

Ka'aba cover received

BAGHDAD, Feb. 15 (SPA) — The Arab Gulf Information Document Center here has received a piece of cloth from the cover of the Holy Ka'aba as a present from Saudi Arabia. The center described the cloth, bordered with gold and silver threads, as the most precious gift it had ever received.



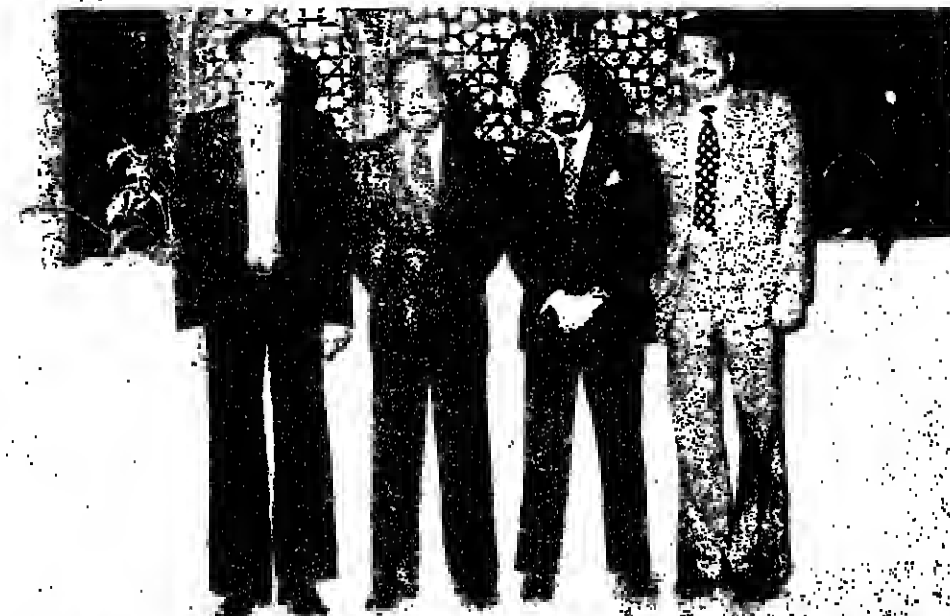
Prince Saud Al-Faisal

Saud to visit U.S. in May

AMMAN, Feb. 15 (QNA) — Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal will visit Washington in mid-May as a member of an official high-level Arab delegation to a three-day encounter between Arab and American businessmen. The delegation will expound the Arab attitude toward various issues.

The delegation also comprises Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan; Dr. Manic Said Al-Utaibah, the United Arab Emirates oil minister; and Abdul Latif Al-Hamad, the Kuwaiti finance minister. The mission was decided by the governing board of the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce when it met in Dubai last Jan. 3.

Prominent U.S. figures who will take part in the meeting include Vice President George Bush, the secretary of state, and defense, treasury and trade secretaries.



AIR-INDIA TEAM: An Air-India team arrived here for a review of pooling arrangements with Saudia and to discuss increasing traffic between the two countries. Shown here are, from left, Commercial Manager Ashok Vaish; Delegation leader and Planning and International Relations Deputy Director Saroj K. Datta; Gulf and Middle East Regional Director Ajit Singh; and Senior Accounts officer B.S. Raut.

SR896m Ahsa projects approved

DAMMAM, Feb. 15 — Sewage projects totaling SR896 million will be carried out in

Move for uniform traffic signs

By Javid Hassan
Riyadh Bureau

RIYADH, Feb. 15 — The Saudi Arabian Standards Organization is preparing a technical study to unify Arabic letters used in traffic signs in the Kingdom, reports SASO's house journal, *Standards Magazine*, in its latest issue.

It adds that Nabil A. Molla, director of the standards department in SASO and Dr. Sayesh Mohan of the engineering department of King Saud University, were assigned the task of gathering information at the Arab countries' level.

SASO, the magazine points out, is also finalizing a report on the symposium on unifying Arabic letters in computers. These will be a standard reference for organizations and government bodies, businessmen and merchants, working with computers.

Finance minister to lead high-level mission Spanish products fair slated for March

By Suresh Shah
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Feb. 15 — A large fair of Spanish products will be held in Riyadh early next month and a high-level mission headed by the Minister for Economics, Finance and Commerce Mijuel Boyer will visit the Kingdom on that occasion, according to Ambassador Manuel Sassot.

Sassot is leaving Jeddah on Thursday, after working for nearly three and a half years in the Kingdom, to take up his new assignment in Madrid as political affairs director general for Africa and the Asian Continent.

On the eve of his departure, he told *Arab News* that economic, political and cultural relations between the two countries are extremely good and are growing further rapidly. "The exchange of visits by high-level dignitaries and officials of both countries helped strengthen further the relations between the two countries," Sassot said.

The joint economic commission was set up between the two countries in 1977, following the visit of Spain's King Juan Carlos to Saudi Arabia, said Sassot. The last meeting of the commission was held in Riyadh and the date of the next meeting in Madrid is likely to be decided when Minister Boyer will visit the Kingdom early March, he added.

Spain imports nearly 30 percent of its oil needs from Saudi Arabia, which is the No. 1 oil supplier, followed by Mexico. Its imports from the Kingdom totaled \$3.16 billion in 1980, rose to \$3.51 billion the next year, and in the first six months of last year they touched \$1.61 billion, he said.



FAREWELL: The representatives of Latin American countries in Saudi Arabia hosted a get-together Monday to bid farewell to Manuel Sassot, left, the outgoing Ambassador of Spain at the residence of Roberto E. Dalton, right, Ambassador of Argentina. Sassot is leaving the Kingdom Thursday after serving here for three-and-a-half years.

Spain's exports to the Kingdom were valued at \$457.44 million in 1980. They increased to \$506.23 million in 1981 and reached \$288.4 million in the first six months of last year. Main products include cement, steel, textiles and building materials, he added.

Sassot said there are possibilities of setting up joint ventures in industrial and agricultural sectors. Several Spanish firms are working in farms near Riyadh. The number

of Spaniards working in the Kingdom is put at 2,000.

The number of visas issued by Embassy last year were up to 14,000 and is expected to reach 17,000-18,000 this year, said Sassot. Some of the Saudi Arabian nationals have bought properties there and many of the frequent visitors are given visas valid for six months, he added.

"The cultural exchange agreement and civil aviation pact between the two countries are ready for signature," Sassot said.

Air-India, Saudia review passenger traffic; work out future arrangement

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Feb. 15 — Representatives of Saudia and Air-India held negotiations in Jeddah in the past three days to review the traffic between the Kingdom and India and to work out arrangements to cope with increased passenger traffic in the future.

A four-member Air-India delegation headed by its Planning and International Relations Deputy Director Saroj K. Datta arrived here Sunday for the review of traffic under pool system in this important and growing market.

Other members of the mission included Gulf and Middle East Regional Director Ajit Singh; Commercial Manager (marketing and sales) Ashok Vaish; and Senior Accounts officer B.S. Raut. Its Jeddah General Manager O. Sekharan and Dhahran General Manager P. Bhandari also participated in the discussion.

The Saudia team was headed by its International Affairs General Manager Hany Aref and included other top-ranking officials.

Mission leader Datta told *Arab News* the air passenger traffic in summer last year between

the two countries recorded a growth of about 35 percent and is expected to be considerably higher this year.

"Saudia and Air-India are optimistic about future growth and continued development of traffic, reflecting the growing friendship and economic and technical cooperation between the two countries," Datta said.

This has become one of the important markets and the number of passengers this year is expected to be around half-a-million. So both airlines are examining ways of achieving better results and measures to eliminate unethical practices, which may help improve profitability, he added.

Both sides decided to maintain the existing services and there are no immediate plans for any expansion. "The proposal for a Trivandrum-Dhahran service, is still under consideration and may be introduced in the coming year," said Datta.

The airlines are operating nine services a week and want to consolidate their position before planning any further expansion. The extension of existing services to connect New Delhi or Trivandrum may be considered, depending on the traffic and convenience, he added.

Dammam hosts photographic competition

Alkhobar Bureau

DAMMAM, Feb. 15 — A photographic competition now opening in the Eastern Province invites local shutterbugs to focus on the

Maize agreement

RIYADH, Feb. 15 — Arrangements have been made to facilitate the import of Sudanese maize to Saudi Arabia, Commerce Minister Dr. Soliman A. Solaiman said Tuesday. He told *Okaz*, on his return from Khartoum, that his visit to Sudan was useful and hoped that the volume of trade with that country will be increased.

wildlife, sports, and architecture of the Kingdom.

Entries for the competition, which is sponsored jointly by the Al Hamra Hotel in Dammam and Swiss Air, are due by March 4. To enter the contest, pick up an entry form in the foyer of the Al Hamra Hotel or Swiss Air Kanoo Center in Alkhobar, and send it with the photos to the Al Hamra Hotel, P.O. Box 1411 in Dammam.

The best of the photographs submitted will be on display in an exhibit at the Al Hamra Hotel, Dammam, from March 16 to 24.

The first prize is seven days' accommodation with half board at a first class hotel in Laax, Switzerland, for two persons.

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GCC union stresses certificate on local goods

DAMMAM, Feb. 15 (SPA) — The Federation of Gulf Chambers of Commerce and Industry has stressed the need for continuing to follow the practice of the chambers issuing certificates of origin in respect of local products exchanged by the Gulf Cooperation Council's states. Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mallahi, deputy secretary-general of the federation said the certificates should then be endorsed by the appropriate government authorities.

Indonesian bid to send more workers to M.E.

JAKARTA, Feb. 15 (AFP) — Indonesia will shortly open a placement office of the Ministry of Manpower in Jeddah to facilitate the sending of Indonesian workers to the Middle East, Minister of Manpower Haru Zein said here.

The ministry plans to send from 30,000 to 50,000 workers to the region in the next fiscal year to add to the 50,000 workers already there.

In political, economic spheres Mexico boosting links

By K.S. Ramkumar
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Feb. 15 — Mexico has been gradually strengthening bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia in all domains, including political and economic, Mexican Ambassador Francisco Gonzalez de Cossio said.

In an interview with *Arab News*, Gonzalez de Cossio said, "We have initiated a process of consultation and have been examining the possibilities of consolidating and expanding the trade between the two countries." He added that there is a potentiality for expanding bilateral trade to the extent of at least \$100 million.

Mexico, which has been exporting technical processes, electrical parts and machinery, and silver articles to the Kingdom, is considering introduction of new items like chemical products, auto parts and equipment, fruits and vegetables, besides many other manufactured goods, he said.

"Our biggest handicap is the lack of direct communication by air or sea with the Kingdom. However, efforts are on to overcome the transportation problem," the ambassador indicated.

Mexico, which produces 300 million barrels of crude oil a day with half of its production being exported, will send a major official trade mission to the Kingdom in due course, he said.

The ambassador said that his country, with 98 percent Catholic population, has only a small floating population in the Kingdom. Some 20 Mexicans are permanent residents here, he added.

Gonzalez de Cossio, 40, who is the first Mexican resident ambassador in the Kingdom having assumed office in August 1981, also said the new Mexican Embassy complex in Riyadh will be styled on the world renowned, most advanced Mexican architectural concepts with a touch of Arabic flavor.



Gonzalez de Cossio

He disclosed that the land for the complex, estimated at about \$5 million, has been leased and the building design submitted to the Mexican authorities. The project is being re-examined by the new administration and should be cleared within the next three months.

Riyadh Al-Khozama Hotel celebrates first anniversary of HRI opening

Riyadh Bureau

RIYADH, Feb. 15 — The Al-Khozama Hotel here celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of Hotel Representatives Inc. (HRI) recently with a special presentation about the 160 hotels affiliated with HRI. More than 40 travel trade representatives saw a presentation depicting 43,000 guest

rooms and suites which are available in all HRI luxury and first class hotels in Europe, the Far East, Asia, Africa and North America.

A hotel spokesman told *Arab News* that HRI, a marketing and reservations company, is owned and operated by the Leading Hotels of the World, an association established in 1928, which carries forward the spirit of traditional service and excellence in the hotel industry. The association has a membership list featuring deluxe hotels.

Gold quality, price checking drive intensified

MADINAH, Feb. 15 — The local anti-fraud committee is intensifying its inspection of gold shops here, checking quality and price, *Okaz* reported.

The committee met at the Commerce Ministry under Saleh Jamal Al-Sagga and questioned Radwan Nawawi Banjar who runs a gold shop in Makkah and who sponsored Dirani Lamri, an Indonesian national caught red-handed with adulterated gold.

The sponsor said that it was Lamri who gave him the adulterated gold bars to remold. The committee decided to try Lamri for selling 18-karat gold as 21-karat metal and make him pay the maximum fine.

Makkah's fine arts exhibit opened; photo show planned in Riyadh

MAKKAH, Feb. 15 (SPA) — An exhibition of Islamic fine arts was inaugurated here Tuesday at the premises of the Makkah Information center.

Best portraits and designs in line with the Saudi Arabian environment and Islamic traditions will be chosen to be placed in public squares and streets as part of the Makkah governorate's activities to beautify the holy city.

The Youth Welfare Organization's headquarters at Riyadh is organizing a large exhibition of rare historic photos.

The organization's Cultural Affairs Director Abdul Rahman Al-Oleik said the exhibition was confined to prominent historic events.

The exhibition is aimed at reviving ancient historic events and Saudi Arabian traditions.

Seminar on 'Islam and Youth' due in December

RIYADH, Feb. 15 (SPA) — "Islam and Youth" has been chosen as the title of a seminar due to be held in Saudi Arabia next December by the Sixth Arab Youth Festival.

The decision was taken during a meeting held here by the festival's secretariat presided over by Deputy Chairman of the Youth Welfare Organization and the festival's acting secretary-general Abdullah Muhammad Al-Adhi.

The meeting also reviewed resolutions adopted by Arab youth and sports ministers during their recent meeting in Somalia.

New cultural centers being established

RIYADH, Feb. 15 (SPA) — The Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts has worked out a large program designed to open new cultural centers in Jeddah, Dammam, Makkah and Madinah in the wake of the success attained by its Riyadh Cultural Center, it was announced here.

The Riyadh Center is the first of its kind in the Kingdom's comprehensive cultural renaissance, it was set up in collaboration with the city governorate and society.



ORIGINAL ART: Syrian artist Ziad Jundi will display water colors and gouache in Alkhobar Feb. 17. Central to his work are landscapes and scenes of traditional village life.

Painting show opens in Alkhobar tomorrow

By Jean Grant
Alkhobar Bureau

ALKHOBAR, Feb. 15 — Syrian artist, Ziad Jundi, will exhibit his water colors and gouache at the Arah Heritage Gallery in Alkhobar, Feb. 17 through March 2.

Jundi, a professor of physics who has taught since 1968 in many universities in the Middle East, is a self-taught artist. Bedouin landscapes and scenes of traditional village life are central to his work.

Subscribers penalized for misusing telephones

JEDDAH, Feb. 15 — Telephone lines have been cut from 500 subscribers in Makkah, by order of Makkah Governor Prince Majed. The subscribers were caught misusing their telephones to annoy other subscribers, a Saudi Telephone spokesman told *Okaz* Tuesday. He said that the wrongdoers were caught over the past four months and will be deprived of their lines for three months, as a first warning. If they repeat their offense they will no longer be entitled to a telephone line.

American expelled for breaking law

RIYADH, Feb. 15 — The representative of a U.S. firm has been caught luring Saudi Arabian nationals to invest through his company and accepting deposits from them. Inspectors of the Commerce Ministry's Consumer Protection Department expelled him from the country, *Okaz* reported Tuesday.

The American had set up his headquarters at Marriott Hotel here after arriving at the invitation of a private firm.

A Saudi Arabian national reported the matter to the authorities and two inspectors were immediately sent to the hotel and ascertained that the complaint was correct.

They told the American that what he was doing violated the country's law that allow no one to engage in such investments without prior permission.

Only banks authorized by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy can undertake such investments and receive deposits from citizens.



GIANT CHEF: A tall and hefty Red Sea Palace Hotel executive chef Richard Frei, center, is flanked here by the hotel Maitre-d Moulay Idriass, left, and resident manager Kamal Barakat, right.

Some jobs for Saudi women advised

RIYADH, Feb. 15 — An effort should be made to employ Saudi Arabian women and have them replace non-Saudis in certain jobs, a seminar on non-Saudi manpower in government departments has recommended, *Al-Riyadh* reported.

The seminar was organized by the Public Administration Institute in honor of Planning

Houston open heart unit chief arriving Feb. 20

JEDDAH, Feb. 15 — Professor Danton Cooley, the head of the open heart center at St. Luke hospital in Houston, will arrive here, Feb. 20, to examine the possibility of setting up a similar facility for open heart surgery at Dr. Sulaiman Faqih Hospital.

Cooley will spend two days examining patients who booked at the hospital. He will also give a lecture, Feb. 21, at Nova Park Hotel on new methods for the treatment of advanced stages of heart disease, *Okaz* reported.

Prayer Times

	Makkah	Madinah	Riyadh	Dammam	Buraidah	Tabuk
Wednesday						
Fajr (Dawn)	5:26	5:30	5:02	4:50	5:15	5:47
Dhuhr (Noon)	12:35	12:36	12:07	11:54	12:17	12:48
Asr (Afternoon)	3:53	3:51	3:22	3:08	3:32	4:00
Maghreb (Sunset)	6:20	6:18	5:49	5:34	5:58	6:26
Isha (Night)	7:50	7:48	7:19	7:04	7:28	7:56

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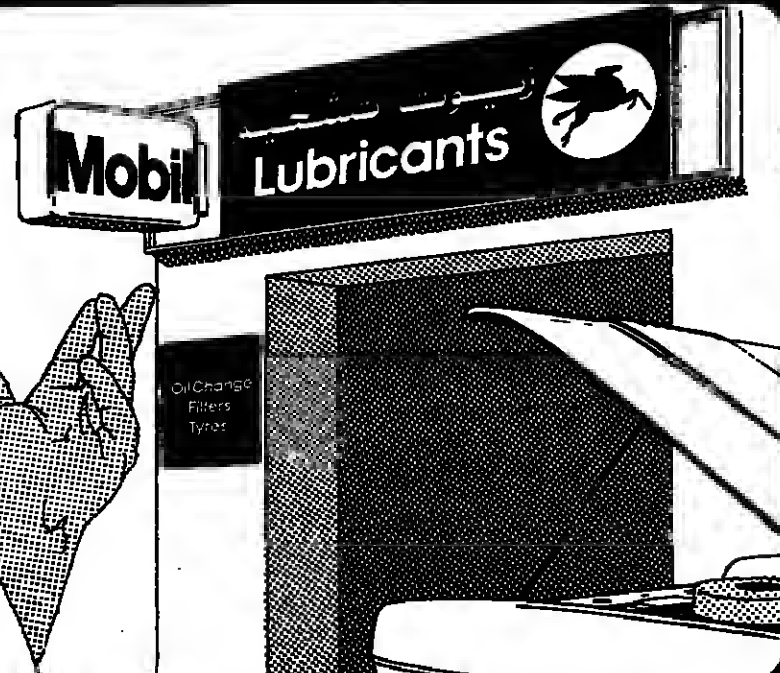


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On self-determination

Holland supports PLO stand

ABU DHABI, Feb. 15 (AP) — The visiting Dutch foreign minister said his government supports the right of Palestinian people to self-determination. The United Arab Emirates news agency WAM said Monday the Dutch position emerged at Van den Broek's official talks with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah.

"The Netherlands follows a balanced Middle East stand, within the framework of the European Community," Van den Broek was quoted as saying. "This stand envisions the right of all peoples in the region to live in peace, within secure borders, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

"Our country supports the position of Jordan in its contacts with the Palestine Libera-

tion Organization, with the aim of coming out with a unified position enabling the two sides to enter negotiations on the Mideast peace process," he was quoted as adding. "The PLO-Jordan contacts are important and beneficial."

Both sides were cited as expressing support for the Arab summit peace plan of last September, and as praising recent proposals by U.S. President Ronald Reagan for a Palestinian settlement.

Abdullah urged the European groups to "adopt a clear stand in support of efforts for a just and lasting settlement" and to "show more understanding for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

The Qatar News Agency quoted an official UAE source as saying his country has also

urged "European assistance to Jordanian King Hussein in his efforts for peace" and backing "to the United States in its efforts for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon."

Abdullah said he had drafted with the Dutch minister a blueprint for an accord on economic and technical cooperation. He gave no details, but he expressed hope the accord would be ratified after "further discussions."

Van den Broek expressed his country's readiness to help the UAE in "efforts for diversifying sources of income," mentioning in particular the fields of agriculture, petrochemicals and engineering.

The UAE ministers of education and health would be visiting the Netherlands in April and June respectively to discuss expansion of mutual relations, Abdullah said.

Lebanon, Israel told to protect Palestinians

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — The U.S. government Monday urged Israel and Lebanon to protect Palestinians following the discovery of some bodies in southern Lebanon.

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said: "We are extremely concerned by the current killings of Palestinian civilians and we have asked the Israeli and Lebanese authorities to try to stop such incidents."

Romberg said U.S. officials lacked information to confirm reports that the Palestinians were killed by Lebanese Christian militia.

At United Nations headquarters in New York, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was examining what the U.N. could do to protect the refugees, a spokesman said.

Perez de Cuellar "is following closely, and with great concern, the matter of the safety of Palestinians in Lebanon, and 'is studying possible action that may be taken by the U.N. in this regard,'" the spokesman said.

The spokesman, Francois Giuliani, made the announcement two days after the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees — UNRWA, for short — said 15 bodies had been found in recent weeks near a ruined refugee camp adjoining Sidon. Many were identified as those of refugees.

Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar was considering the matter "in close consultation with the Commissioner-General of UNRWA," Olof Rydbeck of Sweden, whose office is in Vienna. He was "also in touch with the Lebanese government and a number of other governments which expressed their concern."

UNRWA's announcement said the bodies were discovered a part of southern Lebanon where death threats were being directed against Palestinians. The area it mentioned is north of that patrolled by the U.N. interim force in Lebanon, commonly called UNIFIL.

"In its area of operation," Giuliani said, "UNIFIL is doing its utmost, in cooperation with the Lebanese authorities, to provide effective protection and humanitarian assistance to the local population."

"In particular, it seeks to stop or contain the activities of any Lebanese armed elements not authorized by the central government."

Chiao's representative to the Security Council Ling Qing accused Israel of "backing measures" against the Palestinian population in Lebanon. "A great number of Palestinians are missing, and that should be considered very grave in the light of the massacres" in Beirut refugee camps last year.



PNC Meeting: Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat applaud as the Palestine National Council begins its session in Algiers Monday. (Wirephoto)

Chad vows to deter Libyan aim

NDJAMENA, Feb. 15 (AFP) — Chad can count on a 22,000 strong national army to halt "Libya's expansionist aims," Chadian Foreign Minister Idris Miskine said Tuesday.

In an interview with Agence France Presse, Miskine gave previously unknown details on the Chadian national army formed last December by the government of Hissene Habre.

For the first time Chad had a unified army under a single command, instead of factional militia, Miskine noted. Posts of responsibility had been allocated based purely on competence, he said.

Miskine said the Chadian government had "irrefutable proof" that 12,000 Libyans and other Africans of Libya's "foreign legion" were currently deployed in northern Chad, in support of Goukouni, who set up an alternative government near the Libyan border.

Chad government forces had clashed with Libyan elements on Dec. 23 Gouro, inflicting heavy losses but suffering some wounded, Miskine indicated. The government troops now controlled the area, he said.

Miskine said that the Libyan foreign legion included Congolese, Beninese, 700 former gendarmes from Katanga, which tried to break away from Zaire in the 1960s, and 500 men from the movement led by Idi Amin against the government of the Central African Republic. This force possessed eight military aircraft of Italian make, Miskine said.

Miskine accused Congo of being a "Libyan satellite" in central Africa. "We know how the Libyan authorities manipulate Congolese leaders. We have all seen the insults the Congolese gave to take from the Libyans in every inter-African meeting," he said.

Lubbers blocks anti-boycott bill

THE HAGUE, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — Dutch Prime Minister Rud Lubbers took action to calm a political dispute over a proposed anti-boycott bill which would require companies to report attempts to make them observe a boycott of trading with Israel.

The draft bill is supported by pro-Jewish groups in the Netherlands but Lubbers said Friday that it could not go forward for the time being. Announcing the delay, he referred to Israel's indirect role in last September's massacre of Palestinians in the Beirut refugee camps.

Lubbers' linking of progress on the bill to Israeli policy angered the opposition Labor Party which demanded an emergency debate in parliament.

The government's decision marked its ongoing drift away from strong official support of Israel since last summer's invasion of Lebanon by the Jewish state.

Dhaka schools, colleges closed

DHAKA, Feb. 15 (AFP) — The government Tuesday ordered educational institutions here closed for a week and extended a curfew imposed after clashes Monday between students and police left one dead and over 100 wounded.

In New Delhi, the Press Trust of India reported that several top opposition leaders were detained Monday night.

BRIEFS

CAIRO, (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri flew to the southern Egyptian city of Aswan Monday and met President Hosni Mubarak to discuss bilateral relations and Middle East issues, state television reported.

TEL AVIV, (AP) — Israel has released 15 workers of the medical staff of the Palestine Red Crescent from the Ansar Prison camp in southern Lebanon, the military command said Tuesday.

KARACHI, (AP) — Police in Lahore have issued warrants for 12 members of banned political parties on charges of violating martial law regulations forbidding political gatherings, police sources said Tuesday.

MUSCAT, (R) — Two persons died and several others were injured in flash floods caused by heavy rain in the Sharqiyah area of Oman, official sources said.

JAKARTA, (AP) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Doha met with President

Suharto Tuesday to discuss bilateral and international matters, including the scheduled nonaligned summit meeting in New Delhi.

BEIRUT, (AFP) — A rocket exploded in front of the headquarters of Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party Monday night causing slight damage to the building, a spokesman for the organization said.

AMMAN, (AP) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan arrived here Monday for a four-day visit during which he will hold talks with King Hussein and top government officials on recent Middle East peace talks, a government statement said.

GENEVA, (R) — The Dutch delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission appealed to Iran not to carry out death sentences passed on 22 members of the Baha'i community.

U.S. feels Arens more amenable

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP) — Moshe Arens, Israel's proposed new defense minister, is viewed by U.S. officials as a soft-spoken hard-liner who will be easier to deal with but is unlikely to push for significant changes in Israeli policy.

Arens, 57, ambassador to the United States for almost a year to the day, has been nominated by Prime Minister Menachem Begin to succeed Ariel Sharon, who resigned under pressure because of his role in the Beirut massacre.

The major difficulties in U.S.-Israeli relations in recent months have focused on Israel's refusal to withdraw its troops from Lebanon — without iron-clad security and political guarantees — and its opposition to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Mideast peace initiative, which would return the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to Palestinian control. "His experience as ambassador should be beneficial to both sides," said a U.S. State Department official, who insisted on anonymity.

Arens met with U.S. Defense Secretary

Caspar Weinberger Monday. Arens had asked for the meeting before Begin announced his appointment, Pentagon and Israeli sources said.

Greece welcomes Turkish proposal

ATHENS, Feb. 15 (R) — Greece favors a dialogue for the settlement of pending issues with Turkey but insists that its Aegean Islands, close to the Turkish coast, should remain fortified, a government spokesman said here.

Commenting on a statement in Ankara Monday by Turkish Foreign Minister Turgut Ersoy, quoted here as saying that Turkey would be happy to start talks with Greece if the Greek government changed its mind, the spokesman said that Greece has always been in favor of a dialogue. He said that Greece was keen to open talks with Turkey as long as there was a period of calm.



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U.S. aircraft 'using Thai base facilities'

BANGKOK, Feb. 15 (AP) — U.S. aircraft often make stopovers at a modernized, American-built air force base in Thailand, Thai navy Commander Adm. Somboon Chuapibul has confirmed.

The confirmation in English-language *Nation Review* newspaper, appeared to be the first from a senior Thai officer that U.S. planes were making regular refueling stops at a base called U-Tapao, 220 kilometers southeast of here.

The U.S. flew B-52 bombers from U-Tapao during its war in Vietnam. Washington withdrew virtually all its troops from Thailand in 1976 and has since repeatedly stressed it is not seeking to reopen bases here. Adm. Somboon said Thailand had turned U-Tapao into "a reserve airport in case of emergency" after informing every country of the move.

Rebels isolate Salvador city

SAN SALVADOR, Feb. 15 (AP) — Leftist guerrillas isolated a strategic city in northeastern El Salvador and at least 33 persons were reported killed in heavy weekend fighting, military sources and residents said Monday.

Another 24 civilians, mostly poor peasants caught in crossfire, were reported missing. National police said government troops from nearby garrisons managed to dislodge rebels who blocked the road from San Salvador to Suchitoto, 43 kilometers to the northeast, after intense gunbattles Monday morning. Military sources said the guerrillas began blocking the road Friday in at least two locations and said traffic was still halted.

Reporters who tried to enter the area at midmorning were stopped by armed troops at the Suchitoto River, 22 kilometers north of the capital, who said there was still fighting ahead. One source there said the guerrillas had recaptured one high point overlooking the road.

Suchitoto, on the shores of Lake Suchitlan, is near two huge hydroelectric dams that provide half of the country's electricity. The attacks since Friday appeared to be part of a major guerrilla hit-and-run offensive. Army troops deployed along the road said they expected new attacks at any time.

At least five civilians were killed when guerrillas threw a bomb at a truck loaded with sorghum on the road near La Bermuda, 35 kilometers northeast of the capital on Friday, setting it on fire, a justice of the peace in Suchitoto reported.

The justice, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, said one of the victims was former Suchitoto Mayor Arnulfo Padilla, 58, who was driving the vehicle.

U.S. planes were using it on their way to the Andaman Sea, which borders Thailand and Burma and into the Indian Ocean, the navy commander in chief said. His remarks were excerpted Monday, and a text appeared Tuesday.

Somboon stressed in the interview that Thailand was involved in a major five-year plan to upgrade its naval forces to deter a perceived threat to its long coastlines.

This involved purchases of advanced technology weapons from several countries, including Exocet missiles from France, Harpoon sea skimmers from the United States and T9 Fokker jets from Holland.

Adm. Somboon last month visited Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines to discuss the possibility of joint arms purchases to cut down expenses. The countries are linked, along with Indonesia, in the non-Communist Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) set up in 1967 to boost economic cooperation among them.

The admiral said no definite agreement had been adopted on specific weapons each ASEAN state might buy, adding: "I think it is difficult to have any kind of common joint arms buying program." He said Thailand was planning separate joint exercises with Singapore and Indonesia in addition to its periodic maneuvers with Malaysia. The Philippines, on the other hand, apparently was unable to spare necessary naval units for joint exercises because they were needed to patrol its waters, Adm. Somboon added.

The navy chief said Thailand wanted to avoid bilateral or quadrilateral exercises because ASEAN was an economic and not a military organization.

Clark condition stated to be fair

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Feb. 15 (AP) — The condition of artificial heart recipient Barney Clark was upgraded from serious to fair on Monday and he was moved from the intensive care unit to a private room, hospital officials said.

"He no longer requires intensive care and this move is seen as a first step in adapting him to home care," said John Dwan, spokesman for the University of Utah Medical Center, Clark, 62, in his 75th day on the Jarvik-7 heart, still suffers mild kidney and breathing problems, Dwan said.

Clark had not needed to be on a respirator for a week, but he still was weak and easily tired, Dwan said. "It was thought that moving him to a private room will facilitate the work of (Clark's) physical and occupational therapist and provide a more normal and restful environment in which to regain his strength," Dwan said.

Bulgarian connection in pope case denied

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — Bulgarian Ambassador Stoyan I. Zhulev said Monday that charges of so-called Bulgarian connection in the shooting of Pope John Paul II are false, groundless allegations used by mass media in an "unprecedented propaganda campaign."

He said accusations against Bulgaria and the Soviet Union were designed "to poison the international atmosphere," and noted that Italian judges had not yet acted on Bulgaria's invitation to come there and investigate the allegations. "The evidence does not exist," he said.

Italian authorities have said that Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca, serving a life sentence for shooting the pope, spent nearly two months in Bulgaria before entering Italy in 1981.

Zhulev commented that some 2 million Turks cross Bulgaria annually, moving between Western Europe and Turkey, and they are not under surveillance. He said Agca had

visited Western countries as well. Meanwhile, the Italian news agency Ansa reported Monday that an Italian magistrate will travel to Bulgaria this month to interview a Turk allegedly involved in both the shooting of Pope John Paul II and an arms smuggling ring operating in the Middle East.

The dispatch quoted state prosecutor Carlo Palermo as saying that Bulgarian police had placed the suspect, Bekir Celenk, under formal arrest.

Palermo is heading a three-year-old probe into the arms ring which allegedly sold helicopters and armored cars in exchange for narcotics subsequently dealt on the European market.

Palermo was quoted as saying he would also travel to Turkey next month to pursue his investigations. Four Turks and three Bulgarians have been implicated by Italian officials in the May 13, 1981, shooting of the pontiff.

In Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Iker Turkmen said Bulgaria will not allow Celenk to leave the country while extradition requests are pending.

He told a news conference that Bulgaria had given this assurance to the Turkish government. Turkey has twice asked Bulgaria to extradite Celenk, also wanted in Turkey on charges of smuggling and illegal currency deals.

Turkmen said that Bulgaria "promised to consider seriously Turkey's extradition request under the existing judicial cooperation agreement between the two countries."

Turkish papers said earlier that Celenk, who was detained two months ago in Sofia, had moved from a detention house to the city's Moscow Park Hotel where he was staying under police guard with his wife. Informal sources in Ankara said that Turkish police believed Celenk was involved in arms and drug smuggling before Turkey's military coup in September 1980.

Fraser vows to fight unions

MELBOURNE, Feb. 15 (AP) — Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser launched his campaign Tuesday for Australia's March 5 national elections with a promise to curb the country's militant trade unions.

Fraser promised tough new laws to reduce the power of the unions, which he claimed are responsible for the country's 11 percent inflation and 9.3 percent unemployment rate.

Fraser said if re-elected, he would hold a national referendum to seek powers to allow the conciliation and arbitration commission, the nation's wage-fixing authority, to fine unions which stop essential services.

The prime minister also pledged to make it compulsory for members of workers in essential services to hold secret votes to decide whether to strike or not. He did not specify the areas he considered to be essential services.

Secret ballots would also be required in elections of union officials, he said. Fraser's Liberal National Party coalition government believes secret votes will result in fewer strikes. The government contends the present show of hands style intimidates many union members from voting against militant union leaders.

Fraser was careful to limit promises on welfare and government expenditure to a \$600 million package which included income tax relief for small business, youth unemployment schemes and extended support for rural industry.

He has criticized his Labor Party opponent Bob Hawke for promising to spend \$2.75 billion on a national recovery program.

Liberal National Party advertisements have focussed on the Labor spending promises in the current depressed economy and pose the question "where is the money going to come from?"

Fraser's theme in his election policy speech was that economic recovery was round the corner and that he would lead Australia out of the recession ahead of other Western countries facing similar problems.

Queen hails Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 15 (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who also is Jamaica's head of state, Tuesday praised the Caribbean island's system of parliamentary democracy and the individual freedom it provides.

The queen, who is on her fourth visit here, told the Jamaican Parliament, "this system has been evolved to give the individual the maximum freedom that is compatible with the interests of the society as a whole. But it is not always easy to operate and, like all systems, can be abused or subverted."

"Here in Jamaica, you have succeeded in making it work, enabling stable transitions of elected government and allowing opposing views to be freely expressed."

Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, will leave here Wednesday.

John Paul I was poisoned, report alleges

VIENNA, Feb. 15 (AP) — Bulgaria, which has come under attack in the shooting of Pope John Paul II, published a report Monday suggesting the pope's predecessor had been poisoned.

The official news agency BTA, which has taken the counteroffensive against Western allegations that Bulgarian agents were involved in the May 13, 1981, shooting of John Paul II, cited "contradictions" about the death of John Paul I in a report received here Monday.

Bulgaria has long denied any guilt in the assassination attempt, but Monday's article contained new and pointed inferences about Vatican politics and the death of the first John Paul. It was dated Feb. 11 and transmitted Monday. No reason was given for the time lag.

John Paul I died Sept. 28, 1978, after a papacy of only 33 days. He was found dead in his bed, and the cause was officially listed by the Vatican as a heart attack. There have

been few serious attempts until now to discredit the official version of his death.

"Infraction or poison? — With this question journalist Assen Agov opens his article published in Monday's issue of the *Pogled* weekly. He dwells in it on a mysterious death which took place almost five years ago," the BTA report said.

"The Italian news agency Ansa has reportedly maintained that the body of the pontiff had been discovered not by his secretary but by a nun, without explaining what she was doing in the papal suite so early in the morning," the article said.

The author also pointed out discrepancies in Vatican reports on what John Paul I was reading on the night he died.

Agov cited Western sources who said the pope was in good health before he died, saying there was no evidence of heart trouble. He said pills were seen on the late pope's dinner table before his death, and called into question a Vatican prohibition

on autopsies of popes.

The prohibition is "a circumstance too much facilitating those who throughout the centuries have planned attempts on the lives of the popes because of different interests," he said.

"The 65-year-old Albino Luccioni (John Paul I), patriarch of Venice until his election as a pontiff, had left no lasting trace in the politics of the Vatican, but he hinted firmly of his intentions and qualities and probably this had cost him his life," the article said.

Most Soviet bloc media make no secret of their mistrust of the Polish-born John Paul II, who was elected to succeed John Paul I on Oct. 16, 1978. But they bitterly denounced Western speculation that Bulgarian or Soviet agents were involved in the attack which wounded the Polish Pope in St. Peter's Square.

A Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca, is serving a life sentence for the shooting.

BRIEFS

season from March through May, the Ministry of Tourism announced Tuesday. The ministry said seven Japanese expeditions will lead the assault, followed by five teams from West Germany and four each from the United States, Austria and Poland. One West German team, led by Gerhard Lense of Freiburg, will attempt to climb Mount Everest.

BAGNOLS-SUR-CEZE, France (AP) — A faithful French she-cat pining for her mate padded 700 kilometers in a four-month-long search for her tom. It was reported here Tuesday. The flawlessly white-furred puss, which goes by the name of "Blanchette" or "Whitney", disappeared from her home last September, shortly after her masters left their Paris suburban home: to

move to the warmer south. After 700-kilometer walk, she returned to her former haunt and true love mate late last month.

LONDON (AP) — A letter bomb addressed to British Agriculture Minister Peter Walker was safely defused at the ministry, an official source said here. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the bomb.

VINA DEL MAR, Chile (AP) — Gerardo, a Uruguayan expatriate, won the Vina song composition contest early Tuesday with "Alma, Corazon y Pan," a tune warning about nuclear war. Hetty Koes Endang, one Indonesia's leading pop singers, was named best performer of the prestigious international festival for her soft rock rendition of Titik Hamzah's "My Love."

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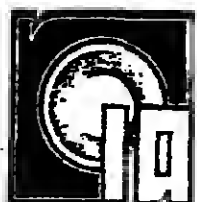
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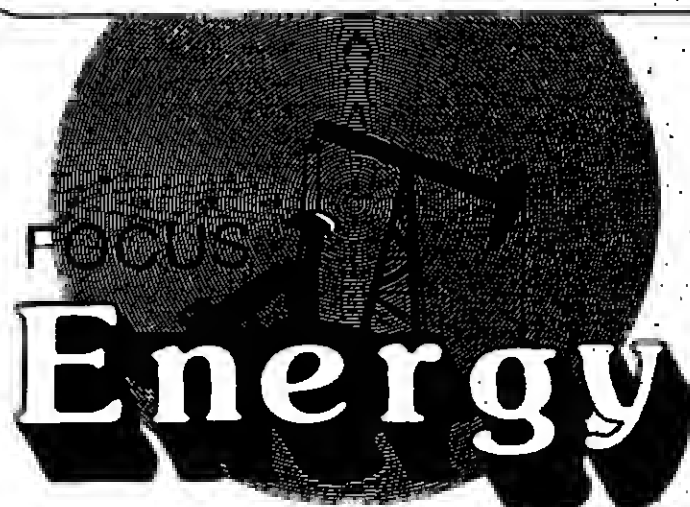
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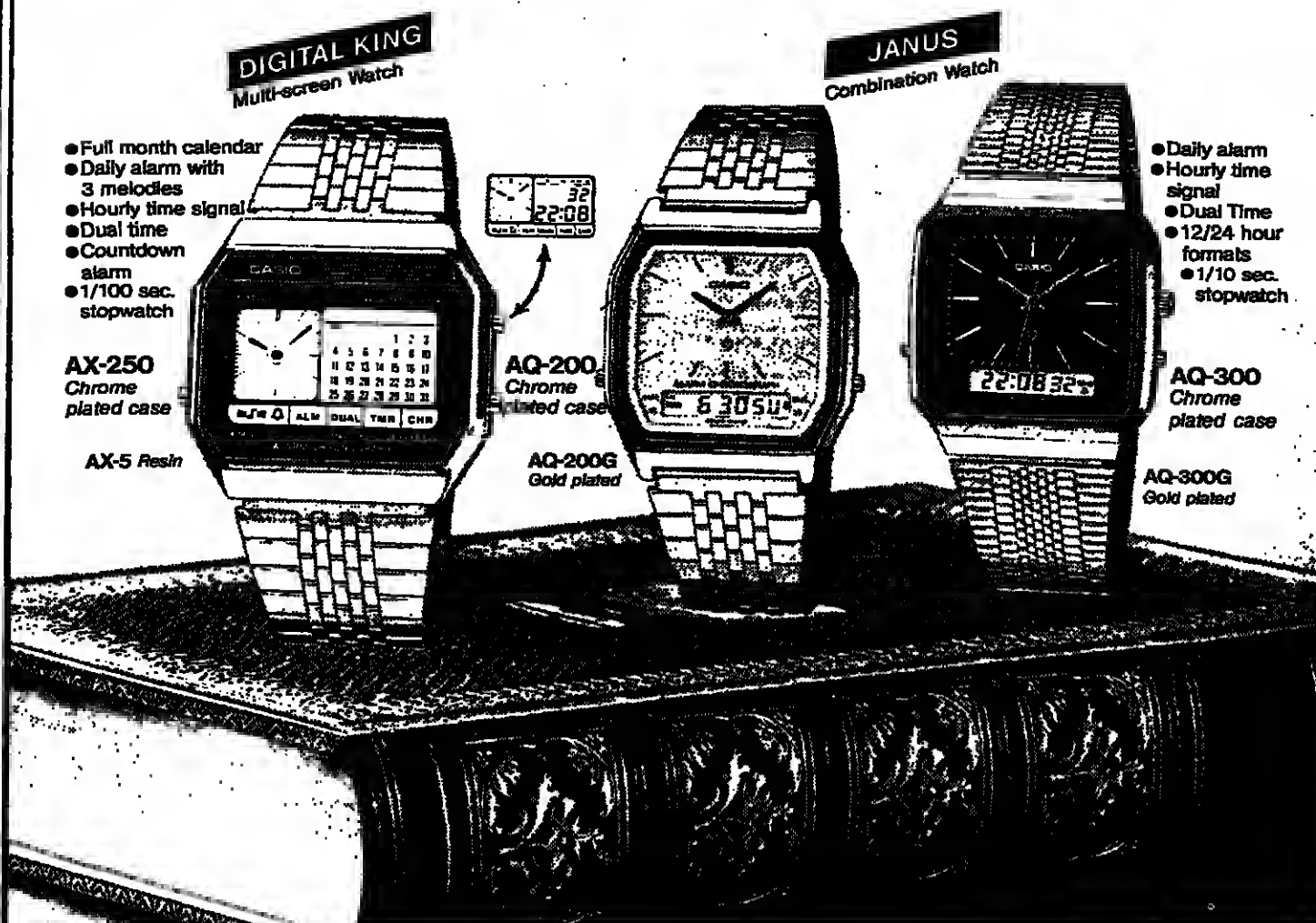
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To earn crack at Hagler's title

Scypion pounds out verdict over Fletcher

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (R) — Argentine Juan Domingo Roldan and American Wilford Scypion look set to be 'Marvelous' Marvin Hagler's next challengers for the world middleweight boxing crown after Frank "The Animal" Fletcher's surprise defeat Monday.

Hagler and Fletcher, ranked second by both the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the World Boxing Council (WBC), had already signed off for the title on May 20. But two days after Hagler's ruthless sixth-round defeat of Britain's Tony Sibson in Worcester, Massachusetts, Fletcher was out-pointed by Scypion in Atlantic City — and lost his title shot in the process. Bob Arum, who promoted both bouts, said last week that a victory by Scypion could earn him a crack at Hagler's title. But Roldan, the WBA's No. 1 contender, may be first in line. The slow-moving but hard-hitting Argentine stopped American Wilbur Henderson in the seventh round of a scheduled 10-round bout on the same bill as the Hagler-Sibson fight on Friday.

Scypion, 26, who boasts a record of 26 wins and three defeats, is ranked sixth by the WBC but is unranked by the WBA. He dictated most of the fight against Fletcher, taking full advantage of his longer reach. "Thank the stars that I was in shape and that I took this fight seriously," he said. "Now the people know what Wilford Scypion is about."

Meanwhile undefeated American Milton McCrory will meet once-beaten Colin Jones of Wales on March 19 in Reno, Nevada for

Rescued yachtsman

to be flown back home

SYDNEY, Feb. 15 (AFP) — Rescued French lone yachtsman Jacques de Roux will rendezvous with the French destroyer *Henri* in the southern Pacific ocean, and be taken to Papeete, Tahiti.

The 44-year-old submarine commander from Cherbourg is then expected to fly back to France within the next week. A New Zealand amateur radio operator learned this morning of the plan to transfer de Roux to the destroyer from the British yacht, *Perserverance of Medina*, which rescued him last Friday.

Perserverance of Medina, sailed by Richard Broadhead, is also an entrant in the BOC Single-Handed Around the World Yacht race. The radio call from Broadhead indicated that de Roux's boat *Skolern III* was on the verge of sinking when he dragged the skipper from the boat.

De Roux, who abandoned his 12.5 meter (40 feet) cutter with only the clothes he was wearing, is in good condition but still suffering from fatigue caused by almost three days of frantic efforts to keep his boat afloat. Broadhead said *Skolern III* was holed when it was completely rolled in giant seas between New Zealand and Cape Horn on the 60 degree parallel south. The French yachtsman reported waves of between 15-20 meters (50 to 65 feet) at the height of the storm, which luckily calmed down before the rescue attempt.

De Roux lost all radio contact with the fleet and was unaware that Broadhead had begun his 320 mile (515 kms) dash south until he spotted the British boat coming alongside for the pickup. The French naval base in Papeete dispatched the *Henri* last Friday to assist in the rescue operations when grave fears were held for De Roux's safety. Broadhead will continue the race, now in its third-leg from Sydney to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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Saronni pips Hinault to the post

MILAN, Feb. 15 (AFP) — Giuseppe Saronni of Italy beat his arch-rival Bernard Hinault of France in their six-event challenge during the Milan Six Days Cycling event here.

The Italian world champion won two of the final three events late on Monday night to overcome the four-times Tour de France winner by the narrowest of margins. After the first set of three events on Sunday night, the two were evenly matched with five points apiece, and Monday night Saronni won the speed trial and the pursuit against Hinault's victory in the 1,000 meters dash, when he left Saronni to his wake 0.65 sec. adrift.

The contest was a cliff-hanger to the end for after Saronni had won the speed trial, Hinault replied with his 1,000 meters victory, to level the scores at eight points everything hinging on the pursuit.

At one point Hinault took a 2.45 sec. lead over the early laps, but Saronni struck back convincingly to win the race, and the challenge, with a 2.41 sec. advantage and an average speed of 46.56 km per hour.

Ravi Ratnayake restricts Tasmania

DEVONPORT, Tasmania, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — A devastating 16-over spell by paceman Ravi Ratnayake helped Sri Lanka gain a 98-run lead over Tasmania by the end of the second day's play here Tuesday.

At the close, with one day to go, Sri Lanka were 76 for three in their second innings after Tasmania had declared their first innings at 199 for seven, 22 runs behind Sri Lanka's first innings declaration of 221 for seven.

Both teams had agreed on early declarations if necessary in the hope of achieving a definite result. Tasmania had intended to declare at tea and had been aiming to amass close to 250 runs but their plans went astray when Ratnayake captured three wickets in the space of 18 deliveries immediately after lunch to send the state side crashing to 110 for six.

Before lunch Ravi Ratnayake had dismissed Tasmania's Nick Allanby, caught by Fernando at point, following the example of 18-year-old Rumesh Ratnayake, who had removed both the Tasmanian openers in his first two overs of the morning without conceding a run. Ravi finished with the outstanding figures of four for 34 from 16 overs and Rumesh two for 34 from 19 overs.

Tasmania managed to move closer than had earlier looked possible to the Sri Lankan total, due in no small measure to a brilliant 53

With devastating spell

from skipper Roger Woolley, made in 80 minutes and including five fours.

Sri Lanka made a shaky start to their second innings with Susil Fernando (19) and Yohan Gunasekera (7) both back in the pavilion by the time the score had reached 40. Fernando, hero of the first innings, was dropped at third slip on one and was eventually out attempting to hook Faulkner but clipped an edge down the legside and the ball flew straight into wicket-keeper Woolley's gloves.

Gunasekera edged a straightforward chance to first slip and was snuffed up by Tasmania's England international import Roland Butcher. Opener Mithra Wettimuny and acting captain Roy Dias set about rectifying the situation for Sri Lanka adding 31 runs before Dias went for 25, made in 36 minutes and including four fours.

Sri Lanka opted to send in night-watchman Roger Wijesuriya with 25 minutes play remaining, and by the close he was still there with one, and Wettimuny, who had batted cautiously throughout the session was on 24.

Dias said later he intended setting Tasmania 250 runs to win on the last day of the tourists' three day tie at the Oval. But because he wants to give his spinners a "long workout" he will probably not declare his side's second innings until about an hour

before tea.

Told of Dias' intentions, Tasmanian captain Woolley said: "It's a very hard target he's setting us, but we'll certainly have a go at it. The wicket is playing a bit unevenly now and nearly all the batsmen struggled on it Tuesday."

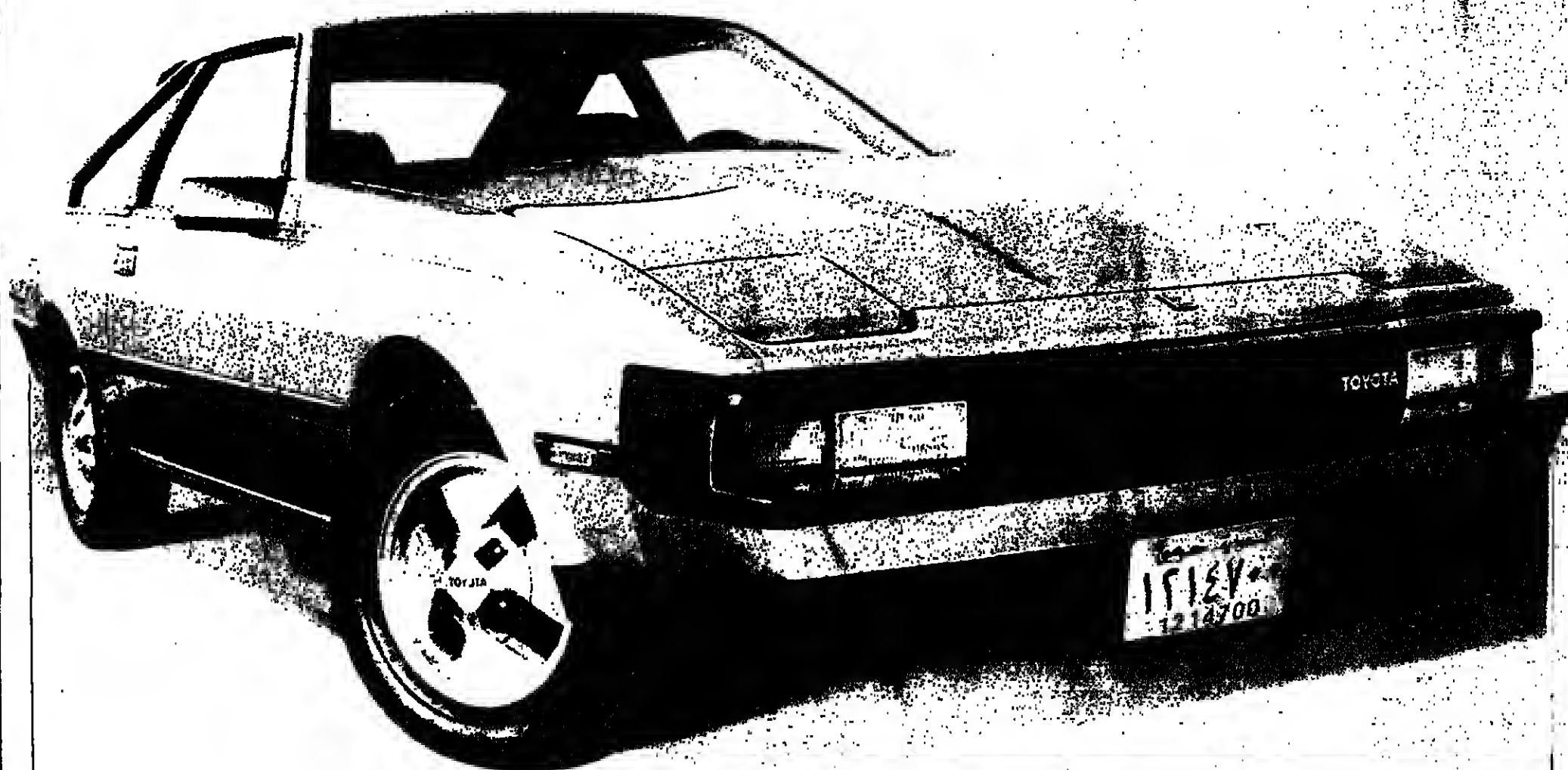
Holding for Derbyshire

Meanwhile, West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding has accepted Derbyshire's offer to play for them next season once his international duties in the World Cup competition in England are completed. Derbyshire put their offer to Holding last week and he notified them Monday that he was keen to join them. The 29-year-old Jamaican played for Lancashire in 1981 and last season.

Chief executive Roger Pearman said: "We are thrilled to get a positive response and hope to get a one-season contract completed as soon as possible." Derbyshire have two other registered overseas players in New Zealand John Wright and South African Peter Kirsten, but neither will be available for County duties in the new season.

Kirsten has indicated he will remain in South Africa to pursue business interests, while Wright will be involved with New Zealand, first in the World Cup and then on the tour which follows.

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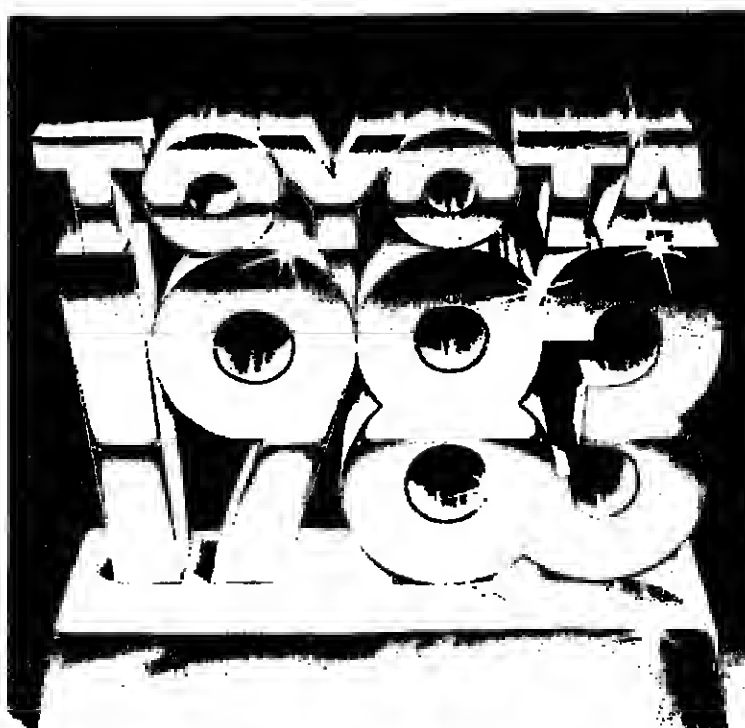
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مركز المبيعات

In U.S. National Indoor Championships

Hooper aces way past Hocevar

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb. 15 (AP) — Chip Hooper served 22 aces Monday night as he beat Brazilian Marcos Hocevar in the opening round of the \$315,000 U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships.

The 6-foot-6 Hooper (1.98 m), who jumped last year from 265th in the world to 24th, ousted Hocevar 7-6, 6-7, 6-4, ending the match with an ace. Earlier, two young Frenchmen, Henri Leconte and Guy Forget, captured their first-round matches, while the Giammalva brothers went their separate ways.

In late matches, Eddie Dibbs eliminated Harold Solomon 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. India's Vijay Amritraj stopped Chris Lewis of New Zealand 6-4, 6-7, 6-1. Australia's Paul McNamee defeated John Sadri 6-2, 6-4. Mel Purcell eliminated Sweden's Hans Simonsson 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, and Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden topped Eric Fromm 6-2, 6-3.

Leconte, a member of the French Davis Cup team that lost to the United States in the Cup final in November, eliminated hand-servicing Viktor Amaya 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. Forget, who just turned 18 last month and finished second in the U.S. Open Junior championships last September, ousted Tim Mayotte 7-6, 6-4.

In other early first-round matches, Tony Giammalva outlasted Brad Gilbert 6-7, 7-5, 7-6. Mike DePalmer stopped Sammy Giammalva 5-7, 6-4, 7-6. Tim Wilkison defeated Tom Gulikson 6-4, 6-1, and Robert Van't Hof downed Andy Andrews 7-6, 6-4.

Shyamala Amritraj sat dejectedly in the stands, watching her husband, Vijay, play in his first tennis tournament in 2 1/2 months. It was also her first tennis match ever.

"I'm kind of excited that I won," said Amritraj. "I think I served well and it was a good first match for me. You have to beat him. He doesn't lose matches."

Meanwhile, at an age when many athletes are considering retirement, Jimmy Connors is playing some of the best tennis of his life. "If I didn't think I could be No. 1, I wouldn't be out there playing," said the 30-year-old American. "I'll play as long as I'm having fun, and as long as I can be one of the top players."

Is it difficult for a man who has won two Wimbledon championships (1974 and 1982), four U.S. Open titles (1974, 1976, 1978 and 1982), 95 Grand Prix events and was the first tennis player to earn \$4 million, to maintain his mental edge?

"Sometimes it's tough to get ready, but I'm not like Bjorn Borg," said Connors, referring to the 26-year-old Swede who recently announced his retirement from tennis saying he no longer found the competition enjoyable. "I play tennis for two reasons. Firstly, it's my business, my living. Secondly, I love playing."

In Chicago, third-ranked Andre Jaeger, seeded No. 2, easily defeated Catherine Tanvier 6-0, 6-1 Monday on the opening day of the \$10,000 Virginia Sims Championships of Chicago at the International Amphitheater.

In other opening action, fifth-seeded Wendy Turnbull beat Leslie Allen 6-2, 6-2. Seventh-seeded Bettina Bunge defeated Mary Lou Piatek 7-6 (tiebreak 7-5), 6-4. Jo Durie upset eighth-seeded Mima Jausovec 6-4, 8-5. Michelle Torres defeated Sue Barker 6-3, 6-4 and Helena Sukova beat Bonnie Gadusek 6-0, 6-0.

In first-round doubles action, defending Virginia Sims champion Martina Navratilova, the world's top-ranked woman player, teamed with Pam Shriver to defeat Bonnie Gadusek and Wendy White 6-4, 6-1. Navratilova, who did not play in singles competition Monday, is seeking a record sixth straight win in Chicago.

Rijvers hopes to snatch a draw against Spain

SEVILLE, Spain Feb. 15 (R) — The Netherlands, once one of the most attractive attacking sides in the world, openly admit they intend to defend and leave here with at least a point after their European Soccer Championship qualifying match with Spain Wednesday.

The Dutch, cast into the wilderness for the last five years, captivated the world in the seventies with their skilful displays of "total football." They meet Spain as leaders of Group Seven and on course for the championship finals in France next year. But manager Kees Rijvers, whose 16-man squad includes only a handful of strikers, is allowing no room for error. "I don't have to hide the fact we have come to defend our goal," he said.

The Dutch, who lost the 1974 and 1978 World Cup finals, have started impressively taking five points from three games. But Spanish manager Miguel Munoz, who replaced Uruguayan-born Jose Santamaria after their disappointing performance in last year's World Cup, knows that a good win by his reshaped side will put them level on points with the Dutch with a game in hand.

Barcelona's wingers Carrasco and Alonso, both 23, and 25-year-old Athletic Bilbao striker Sarabia spearhead a team which includes only three survivors from the World Cup squad — goalkeeper Arconada and defenders Camacho and Gordillo. The Dutch line up includes defender Ruud Krol, the one surviving member from those heady days of success in the mid-seventies.

Rijvers has also included Johnny Metgod, who plays for Spain's Real Madrid, along with midfielder Dick Schoenaker, who was passed fit after a training session in Zeist last week. But Ajax defender Ophof misses the match with a knee injury.

"I do count so very much upon the support of fans in our game against Holland," said Munoz. The Seville game, for which Spain counts upon the support of a partisan crowd often referred to as "Spain's No. 12 player," has drawn interest, and despite record low temperatures that has kept Seville shivering for a week, a crowd of 70,000 is expected to turn out to cheer the Spaniards on.

The probable lineups will be: Holland: Schrijvers, Van Den Korput, Krol, Metgod, Hovenkamp, Boeve, Spelbos, Vanenburg, Van Der Gijp, Van Kooten and Schoenaker.

Spain: Arconada, Juan Jose, Maceda, Goicoechea, Camacho, Victor, Senor, Gordillo, Marcos, Sarabia and Carrasco.

Derby agree to pay Bradford

DERBY, England, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — English Second Division soccer club Derby County Tuesday agreed to pay Bradford City 56,000 pounds compensation for "poaching" team manager Roy McFarland and coach Mick Jones from the Third Division team.

A football League inquiry Monday ordered Derby to pay the amount and club chairman Mike Waterson said Tuesday: "I only want to put this whole business behind me." Bradford City, who sought compensation of 200,000 pounds, will be appealing against the decision, their chairman Bob Martin said.

It is the first time that one league club has been forced to pay compensation since a new regulation was brought into the rules a year ago. Derby had already been fined 10,000 pounds by a previous league commission for enticing McFarland and his assistant Mick Jones away from Bradford and they had 14 days in which to appeal against the latest decision. But Derby abstained from appealing.

Meanwhile, the government will conduct a survey to find out if the public wants Mexico to host the 1986 World Cup Soccer Championship, the official *El Nacional* newspaper reported in Mexico City, and the results should be in within 20 days.

It quoted sports undersecretary Fernando Alanis Camino as saying he had also asked the news media to help sound out public opinion. Alanis Camino said he would interpret an indifferent response as meaning that Mexicans disapprove of the idea of hosting the tournament. He noted that the 1982 World Cup tournament in Spain ended in the black. Mexico is in the midst of its worst economic recession.

The International Soccer Federation is



McEnroe ... toppled from No. 1 spot

A 'grand' trick on McEnroe

PARIS, Feb. 15 (AFP) — The quirks of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) computer this week robbed John McEnroe of his world No. 1 ranking and replaced him with fellow-American Jimmy Connors, although neither man played in a Grand Prix tournament.

The ATP computer works on a yearly cycle and automatically effaces the 53rd week from its calculations. Last year, the Memphis Grand Prix, which started Tuesday took place one week earlier.

Players who did well in that tournament last year then, automatically find their percentages diminished. McEnroe, reached the final last year, losing to Johan Kriek.

So narrow is the gap at the top that McEnroe is pushed to No. 3 behind Connors and Lendl. The other top ten move came from Frenchman Yannick Noah, who was knocked out in the second round at Memphis and by the same rule, moves from nine to a highest-ever seven.

Hyatt Touch of Class tastes mixed fortunes in Softball

By Nalche Nedni-Apache

JEDDAH, Feb. 15 — With one or two exceptions, things went pretty much as expected this week in the Jeddah Softball League. After viewing many of this week's games, Jack Lee Martin was heard to remark that his excitement level was only exceeded by the time he appeared on the "That's Incredible!" with a six-foot Eveready battery. Read it as you will. In the "A" Division everybody was a winner except one. The single loser was the fun guys from the Pratt & Whitney Eagles, who dropped one to the Killer Bees, 14-2.

Locked in took on the "B" Division powerhouse — Whittaker, and managed to emerge spectacularly victorious by a score of 11-4. (Not to be confused with the game of the week). The BD All Stars took on Sogex for amusement and discomfited them as they served them from reality, 13-3.

The Killer Bees, after taking unwarranted advantage of the Pratt & Whitney Eagles, came back to play lowly ICAO of the "B" Division. They nearly lost the game as they talked like Wall Street but played like Sesame Street. ICAO had the bases loaded in the last inning but could not score to lose it, 2-1. (Also not to be confused with the game of the week).

The Bees then flew on to pollinate the flowers of KAIA but ended up in a raging war from another "ho-hum" B-team. In an extremely hard fought see-saw battle that saw the lead remain unchanged, they rendered the KAIA pistol useless, 21-3.

The other "A" Division team, the Alsaleem Meridian Vets, continued their winning ways as Jim Heart very nearly posted the first no

bitter of the season as they put Bendix in a catatonic state in 5 innings, 17-0. The one Bendix hit came in the last inning. The fans were treated to more home runs by Jack "In The Box" Graham and Pete "Beastmaster" Bauers, with strong hitting and fielding assists by John Gutierrez, John Lancaster and exceptionally excellent play at second base by Jeff "Ain't He Fast" Kerr.

In the "B" Division, the ever beguiling Pan Am pulled off the theft of the week as they overcame a 6-2 deficit in the bottom of the 7th inning to beat MOPCI, 7-6. By virtue of this win and losses by Sogex and ICAO, Pan Am moves into third place in the Coral League.

In the Oasis League, Raytheon ADI won two. They started the week by beating their family rival, Raytheon R&R, in a hard fought battle, 14-10. After that victory they proceeded on to what appeared to be much easier meat in the person of PCS.

However, PCS was not impressed and battled with pugnacity and puissance until they

Tight security on cards in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — Police and private security officers will provide security at the 1984 Olympic Games, an official said.

Duane R. Baker, an assistant director of security for the Games, declined to reveal how big the security contingent would be, but he indicated that the number of officers at the Los Angeles Games probably will exceed the 17,000 who worked at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

Baker told a gathering of Los Angeles County reserve peace officers that their help would be needed during the Games. Sworn law enforcement officers "Will have the more difficult tasks," he said, while private security officers will be assigned to fixed posts such as gates and locker rooms.

Baker said the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee already has signed a contract with the Los Angeles Police Department and will soon have a contract with the County Sheriff's Department.

During 1984 Olympics

Tight security on cards in Los Angeles

The Olympic committee will reimburse smaller police departments such as Arcadia, Pasadena and Long Beach for security for the events in their areas, Baker noted.

Meanwhile, with the words, "start the press" from U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the U.S. mint struck the first of 52 million commemorative Olympic coins expected to raise money for two Olympic committees.

U.S. mint director Donna Pope, talking with Reagan via telephone, pushed the two buttons to start the press that will strike the 50 million 1983 and 1984 silver dollar and two million 1984 gold \$10 coins.

The coins, the first-ever Olympic commemoratives minted in the United States, are expected to raise as much as \$200 million to be divided evenly between the U.S. and Los Angeles Olympic committees. The silver dollars are the first 90 percent silver coins minted in the United States since 1964 and the 90 percent gold coins are the first minted since 1934.

Although the Seoul Summer Olympics are still five and half years away, South Korea is already busy getting ready. Not only are the Koreans at work building the necessary sports facilities, they are also smartening up the Han river, which flows by the main venue for the 1988 Olympics.

A large sports complex, featuring a 100,000-seater main stadium, a 30,000-seater ball park, an indoor swimming pool and a gymnasium, is scheduled for completion around the end of the year. Construction work started three years ago with a view to hosting the Asian Games in Seoul in 1986.

A few kilometers east of the main stadium, work will start this year on a new national sports complex. The complex will comprise a velodrome and three gymnasiums for gymnastics, fencing and table tennis. An apartment complex is being built nearby as the Olympic Village for some 13,000 athletes and a press village for about 8,000 foreign newsmen expected here in 1988. These apartments will be sold for private occupancy when the Olympics are over.

No less important is an ambitious development project aimed at converting the now hopelessly polluted and desolate Han river into a beautiful river by the time foreign athletes and tourists flock to the city.

Work has just begun to change a 36-kilometer (22 miles) stretch of the river near the Olympic sports complex into a cruise channel. A 287-kilometer (180 miles) sewage pipeline is to be laid to divert for proper treatment the several million tons of sewage now being dumped into the river annually.

When the \$464 million project is completed, the dead and stinking Han river will again be filled with fish and pleasure boats. Parks are to be built along the projected waterway, with various recreational facilities including angling sites and jogging courses as well as a regatta course for the Olympics.

City planners believe the site will become a favorite outing spot for Seoul's eight million people. Meanwhile, the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee insists that hosting the 1988 Olympics will pose few financial problems, contrary to fears expressed by critics.

India will seek support for her bid to host the 1992 Olympic Games when the 86th International Olympic Committee meets in New Delhi next month, president of the country's Olympic committee Raja Bhalinder Singh said.

Singh said that with the success of the ninth Asian Games held here in November and the government's continued support for sports, he saw no reason why India's request should not be approved. The final decision will be taken in 1986 at the international committee session in Seoul, the venue for the 1988 Olympics.

How they stand				
"A" Division				
	W	L	BF	RA
Lockheed I	17	6	206	115
Killer Bees	17	6	242	101
Meridian Vets	13	5	213	89
BD All Stars	14	8	188	145
Pratt Whitney Eagles	3	21	92	308
"B" Division				
	W	L	BF	RA
Raytheon R&R	13	3	171	105
Corp of Eng't	11	8	180	128
Pan Am	8	6	139	129
Sogex	9	7	141	151
ICAO	8	7	188	108
Whittaker	2	14	102	281
MOPCI	1	14	71	210
Oasis League				
	W	L	BF	RA
Raytheon ADI	15	4	234	155
Mobi	12	5	204	133
Lockheed II	11	9	218	174
Parsons Diesel	9	8	171	146
KAIA	7	7	145	124
PCS	7	13	129	225
DATAC	6	16	167	274
Bendix	3	15	164	287
Wadi Division				
	W	L	BF	RA
Blue Angels	15	3	151	76
Safeway Truly Fine	15	4	258	63
Hyatt Touch of Class	11	8	172	113
Mobi (W)	7	10	119	194
Corp of Eng't	6	12	136	193
Whittaker (W)	0	18	37	316

White captures LPGA Classic

SARASOTA, Florida, Feb. 15 (AP) — Donna White, battling tricky winds gusting up to 25 mph (40 kph), fired a four-under-par 68 Monday and captured the rain-delayed \$175,000 LPGA Sarasota Classic by one stroke over Alice Miller, Joanne Carner, and Nancy Lopez.

White's four-round total of 284 was four-under-par on the 6,128-yard Bent Tree Golf and Racquet Club course and gave the former University of Florida player her third career victory and first in three years. White, who won the Florida Lady Citrus and the Coca-Cola Classic in 1980, pulled into a tie with Miller with a birdie on the 14th hole and took the lead when Miller bogeyed the par three, 140-yard 17th.

Miller, chasing her first professional victory, finished at three-under, 285 in a tie with Carner and Lopez, who was trying to become the youngest \$1 million winner on the tour. Kathy Postlewait was two shots back at 286.

Karpov records win

LINARES, Feb. 15 (AFP) — World champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union inflicted the first defeat on Hungarian Gyula Sax at the International Chess Tournament here Monday.

Sax, who won both of his opening ties at the event failed to contain the champion who, thanks to his victory over the Hungarian, is now in fourth place with a game in hand and just half-a-point behind the leaders.

A draw against Soviet opponent Efim Geller was enough to enable Ulf Andersson of Sweden to share the leadership with Sax on two points.

Shergar's kidnapping big blow to Ireland

DUBLIN, Feb. 15 (R) — The kidnapping of the champion racehorse Shergar from an Irish stud has cast a cloud over the Irish bloodstock industry, a bright spot in an otherwise lack-luster economy.

Shergar, winner in six of his eight races including the English and Irish Derbys, was snatched from the Aga Khan's Ballymena Stud west of Dublin by armed men last Tuesday. His whereabouts are still a mystery and there is growing anxiety within the country and breeding circles about how this could hit a multi-million-dollar industry.

Peter McKeever, managing director of the Curragh Bloodstock Agency, near the racecourse of the same name, said: "The kidnapping could have quite a serious effect on the whole Irish economy." Some breeders fear that wealthy foreign horse-owners, attracted to Ireland by its traditional expertise, favorable climate and tax concessions, may be frightened off.

It was reported here that the Aga Khan, with a breeding empire of some 200 mares and large numbers of shares in syndicated stallions such as Shergar, chose Ireland over the United States where he had more lucrative offers. While he raised 10 million sterling (\$15 million) by selling 34 shares in Shergar and keeping six, he could have earned over \$30 million syndacating the horse in America.

There is much at stake in Irish horse-breeding. One estimate put the value of foreign investments and breeding fees at over 100 million pounds (\$137 million) a year, though the real figure may be much more. Captain Sean Berry of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association described it as a "multi-million-pound industry" concentrated in about 20 top stud farms scattered around the country. Apart from the

money, it provides employment, directly or indirectly, for some 50,000 people in a country where 14.5 percent of the work force are without jobs.

According to Captain Berry, Ireland exports some 80 percent of its Thoroughbreds, making it the second largest bloodstock exporter after the United States. Shergar was due to cover up to 55 mares, at 70,000 pounds (\$95,000) a time, during the six-month breeding season which began last Monday. So far he has shown remarkable fecundity, getting 40 of last season's 42 mares in foal and he became a father for the first time last week.

During the season a prize stallion is put on a special diet of up to 14 pounds (six kgs) of oats and half a bundle of hay a day and is exercised regularly to keep him fit. If Shergar is not recovered soon, a whole year's revenue could be lost to his owners and there is a

danger that he may lose his mating urge if kept away from mares for too long, experts said. Captain Berry said the kidnapping was unlikely to have major long-term consequences for the industry.

The Irish breeding industry is concentrated in two main areas — around the Curragh, in County Kildare, where the Aga Khan's stud is situated and in Tipperary, where Ireland's leading racehorse trainer Vincent O'Brien is based. One attraction is tax exemption for stallions' fees, a considerable draw.

Captain Berry conceded that security at studs, which has generally been relatively relaxed compared to security at racing stables, would have to be tightened. But best-selling racing mystery writer Dick Francis, himself a former jockey, said the security problem at studs was not peculiar to Ireland but was world-wide. And something soon has to be done about it.

BRIEFS

GENOA, Italy, (AFP) — Pietro Mennea of Italy, Olympic champion and 200 m world holder, achieved a new world best indoor performance of 20.74 over the distance at a meeting here Sunday. The previous world best time of 20:77.10 was set only Saturday by Ralf Luhke.

GLASGOW, (AFP) — Bob Sutherland kept the World Indoor Bowls crown in Scotland Sunday, when he defeated Canadian Burnie Gill 21-10 in the final at Coatbridge.

ROME (AFP) — Danny Sullivan of the U.S. has been signed up by the Benetton-Tyrell Formula One motor racing team and will drive in the Brazilian Grand Prix in Rio de Janeiro on March 13, the team announced.

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia will send

only an eight-man team and no woman player to the All-England Badminton Championships in London next month, an Indonesian Badminton Federation spokesman said. This will be the first time that Indonesia has not taken part in the women's matches.

GOPPINGEN, West Germany (AFP) — Young Italian Dorina Vaccaroni won the women's foil event at the Goppingen International Fencing Tournament. She beat West Germany's Cornelia Hanisch in the final.

BERLIN (AFP) — West Germany won the World Speedway on Ice Team Championship in West Berlin. Max Niedermayer and Helmut Weber were the stars of their team. Sweden were second and pre-tournament favorites the Soviet Union third. Czechoslovakia were fourth.

Soccer results		
English Division Three		
Southend	0	Huddersfield 1
Division Four		
Stockport	2	Bury 1
Argentine		
Talleres	0	Estudiantes de la Plata 2
Racing Cordoba	2	Independientes 2
Velez Sarsfield	1	Ferro 0
Greek		
Panathinaikos	1	Aris 2
Makedonikos	1	Yanina 0
Aek	1	Ethnikos 0
Lamia	1	Pak 0
Panathinaikos	1	Kastoria 1
Panathinaikos	1	Damia 1
Iraklis	2	Panseravikos 0
Olympiakos	3	Oli 1
Belgian		
Beerschot	1	Anderlecht 2
Tongres	2	FC Bruges 3
Watersloot	0	Beveren 0
Lokeren	2	Seraing 2
CS Bruges	1	Ghent 1
RWD Molenbeek	1	FC Liege 1
Liege	0	Anderlecht 2
Wargen	1	Courtrai 2
Standard Liege	2	Watersloot 2

arab news

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SIDON OCCUPATION

The occupation of Sidon by the Israeli-backed militia of Maj. Saad Haddad does not come as a surprise to observers who now believe that the Israeli "surrogate" is just bidding its master's orders.

It also coincides with the departure of Israeli Defense Minister Sharon. It may well have been his last official act to order Maj. Haddad and his gang of paid cutthroats and murderers to enter Sidon. Those who believe that the departure of Sharon or even for that matter Begin, will alter the Israeli enemy's expansionist racist and militant policies are wrong. Israel now controls Lebanon thanks to United States arms, and vetoes in the United Nations.

A drama is being enacted there. Philip Habib is supposedly "trying" to get the Israelis out of Lebanon and, while he's doing that, the Israelis are annexing more land and forcibly evicting Arabs out of their hearths and homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Lukewarm appeals by the U.S. government are made to pull the wool over Arab eyes. These appeals have fallen on deaf ears as the Israeli monsters, their appetite whetted by fresh blood, are in no mood to listen to their master in Washington. A classic Frankenstein case.

The Arabs are at a loss and confused as many others are when it comes to the unpredictable policies of the United States.

They should not be. For when it comes to Israel, the U.S. policy remains rigid. In the eyes of the United States, Israel can never do any wrong and even if it did, an Israeli commission can always redeem the country's honor.

Since Israeli honor has been redeemed, Israel may prolong withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon and as yet there is no tangible pressure by the U.S. on it to withdraw. Meanwhile, the Arabs can wait.

Saudi Arabian press review

Saudi Arabian newspapers Tuesday hoped that the Palestine National Council would unanimously adopt the Arab peace plan as it is a solid basis for achieving a just and durable settlement in the Middle East.

Okaz said the whole world hopes Palestinian leaders, currently meeting in Algeria, will agree on a unified political strategy that can meet their demands within existing Arab and international possibilities. It expected the council would emerge with "practical resolutions that can ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent state."

The paper urged Palestinian and Arab leaders to drop their marginal differences and adopt a clear-cut political strategy ensuring a just settlement of the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper stressed the need for coordination between the Arab peace plan adopted at the Fes summit and other peace initiatives but with a commitment to the "basic points of the Arab peace formula."

Al-Nadwa noted the world was expecting the council to have a decisive say on ensuring an independent Palestinian policy-making and Palestinian-Jordanian relations, which had been greatly strengthened during the Israeli

invasion of Lebanon. Al-Bilad described the PNC gathering as the most important meeting in the history of Palestinian military and political struggle to recover their usurped rights.

The paper said the council leaders "now have a clear-cut understanding of the dimensions of their case aimed at existing Arab and international developments" and stressed that endorsement of the Arab peace plan would be on top of the council's agenda. "The Arab world is attaching great hope to the council in ensuring the Palestinian people's rights including self-determination," the paper added.

Al-Yom expressed optimism that the council would unanimously adopt the seven-point Arab peace plan.

Al-Jazirah urged the international society to shoulder its responsibility toward ending the Iranian aggression on Iraq and saving the Iranian people from Tehran's oppressive regime. It regretted the insistence of Iranian rulers to continue hostilities against a Muslim state and sending unskilled teenagers to die on the battlefield.

The paper praised Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's calls for peace with Iran in spite of the great victory scored by his armed forces in every offensive launched. (SPA)



U.S.-European rifts darken economic summit prospects

By William Drozdzak

Continuing sharp differences between the United States and its Western European allies over East-West trade policy and farm export subsidies are again raising trans-Atlantic tensions and darkening hopes for a successful Western economic summit to Williamsburg, Virginia, in May.

The Reagan administration, as host for the seven-nation meeting, would like to avoid the squabbles that marred last year's summit at Versailles and demonstrate unity in the alliance at a time when massive protests may gather momentum against the West's planned deployment of nuclear missiles in five European countries later this year. But disagreements over the nature of East-West trade and agriculture seem so intractable that the summit may become an exercise, as a Western

ambassador here puts it, of "trying to hold our nose and survive it."

Nearly three months after President Reagan cooled the controversy over the Soviet gas pipeline by lifting sanctions against companies involved in the project, the allies remain far apart on the issues of controlling credit and high-technology exports to the Soviet Union. In the wake of the pipeline fiasco, several studies were commissioned to prepare the ground for a joint trade policy in time for the Williamsburg summit.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is looking into the strategic dimensions of trade with the Soviet Union while the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development is studying dependence of the allies on Soviet gas. A third group, the Paris-based Coordinating Committee or "COCOM," is seeking ways to control the spread of high technology and prevent sophisticated equip-

ment from going to the Soviet Union.

U.S. and European officials also expressed concern that a growing conflict over subsidies to dispose of butter, wheat and poultry surpluses accumulated by American and European farmers could become so tense by May that talk of a trade war could dominate the summit. Faced with record foreclosures of U.S. farms and angry demands for action by members of Congress, the administration has started to retaliate against the Europeans for selling farm products below world market prices.

Last week, the United States angered the Europeans by undercutting them with a subsidized sale of 1 million tons of wheat to Egypt, one of the community's traditional markets. If the United States carries the price war into butter or other goods, European officials warned that some punitive action may be taken against \$4.5 billion worth of soybeans and other U.S. farm products that enter

the community duty free.

(Leonard Doyle of *The Guardian* reported that Edith Cresson, the French agriculture minister, said the community would sell subsidized farm produce to Latin American countries if the United States went ahead with a planned sale of subsidized butter to Egypt.)

During his trip to Europe in December, Secretary of State George P. Shultz sought repeatedly to portray the breach with Europe as having been closed and exhorted the allies to work intensively for a joint approach to East-West trade that could be sealed at the May summit. A U.S. diplomat closely involved in the preparations said, however, that even though one or two studies might be completed by that time, "it will take at least a year to achieve anything close to a common policy, and then only if the administration settles for far less than it has demanded of the Europeans."

Reagan's decision to drop sanctions in the pipeline dispute represented "a magnificent band-aid," said an ambassador, "but real differences over East-West trade have not been resolved."

The Europeans, while willing to restrict the flow of goods that carry obvious strategic value, insist that normal trade and financial arrangements with the Soviet Union should not be curtailed. Such restrictions, they argue, would not only cut off important export markets for European companies battered by a prolonged recession but also amount to declarations of economic warfare against a powerful neighbor.

The Reagan administration favors much stricter control of commerce with the East bloc and says a variety of consumer goods may unwittingly serve the purposes of the Soviet military buildup.

The Europeans counter with the argument that by such a yardstick, U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union also provide important assistance to Moscow's military buildup.

"The big problem is definition," says a European Community official. "Who is going to tell us vacuum cleaners cannot be sold to the Soviets but wheat can?" Even if the studies are finished by May, U.S. and European Community officials said they were highly dubious that any policy action would be taken at the Williamsburg meeting.

"We know that Reagan clearly wants a different meeting than Versailles, with less words and more business to reach a meeting of the mind," said European involved in the summit preparations. "But it's difficult to see how there can be concrete achievements. We think Reagan is aware of this and will settle for a friendly low-key meeting, with may be a few small steps to show we are working together."

Despite the anxieties over East-West trade and farm subsidies that could sour the atmosphere of the summit, U.S. and European diplomats said that some lessons were learned by the failure of last year's summit that might be avoided this time. "Everybody agrees that the format followed at Versailles was simply terrible," said a European Community official. "There should be fewer prepared texts, no prearranged communiqué and more substantial discussions among the government leaders. Maybe we are learning that these meetings are just not capable of solving delicate world economic problems." (WP)

Old men cling to top positions in China

By Tony Walker

PEKING —

The man who is China's head of state and who holds the No. 2 position in the Communist hierarchy is so feeble he needs help to lift a cup of tea to his lips.

He is so lacking in dexterity that he needs assistance to turn the pages of a speech, and his legs are so weak he needs help to stand up. Marshal Ye Jianying, the 85-year-old chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) could not be said to have endowed the recent opening of the Chinese parliament, over which he presided, with a sense of vigor and purpose.

Marshal Ye's obvious enfeeblement at the parliamentary opening is a reminder that China continues to be ruled by very old men, despite efforts in recent years to rejuvenate the upper reaches of the bureaucracy and the party.

At the opening, several rows behind the aged marshal on the podium in Peking's Great Hall of the People, sat Deng Xiaoping, effectively China's leader although he does not hold the formal post. At 78, he is the second oldest figure on the six-member standing committee of the ruling Politburo. Deng remains extremely active, but a question being asked more frequently in China is how much longer he can keep it up. The veteran official said he will retire by 1985, when he will be 81.

Also prominent at the opening session of the NPC was Peng Zhen, a vice chairman of the Congress's standing committee and Politburo member, who at 80 cannot have many years of active service left. Presiding over the first plenary session of the NPC was Deng Yingchao, the widow of the late Premier Chou En-lai, and herself a standing committee vice chairman and Politburo member. She is 78 and this year looked appreciably older, grayer and

more shriveled than she did last year. Madam Chou has reportedly been ill.

Much has been made in the world's press in recent weeks about the Soviet gerontocracy, but the average age of those filling the top six positions in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy is higher than the equivalent top half dozen in Moscow. The names and ages of those on the standing committee of the Politburo, China's senior bracket of leaders, in order of precedence are: Hu Yaobang, 67; Ye Jianying, 85; Deng Xiaoping, 78; Li Xiannian, 77; Zhao Ziyang, 64; and Chen Yun, 77. The average age is 74.6.

The average went up at the recent 12th Party Congress because the former chairman, the 61-year-old Mao protégé Hua Guofeng, was dropped from the standing committee. Before the congress the average age of party "elders" was 72.7. The Politburo itself, despite the election of seven new members, was not rejuvenated. Of the seven, only Wan Li is under 70. All the rest are septuagenarians, the oldest being 78.

Despite the gerontocratic complexion of the top Chinese leadership, Deng and his supporters have been relatively successful in their efforts to introduce new blood at lower levels of the bureaucracy and the party. Many of the new ministers and vice ministers are young by Chinese standards, and so, too, are important functionaries recently appointed to positions of responsibility in the party organization. But if nothing else, the 12th Congress demonstrated that the more senior Chinese officials are, the more tenacity they display when it comes to holding on to office.

(Mao, of course, held on to the party chairmanship until he died, even though he had been seriously ill for several years. And Premier Chou died while still in office, even though he was in hospital

with cancer for more than a year.)

Marshal Ye is the prime contemporary example of an aging Chinese leader who simply refuses to retire, despite confident predictions that at the recent party congress he would step down and thus allow Deng to revamp the Politburo standing committee. Marshal Ye even encouraged this speculation on the eve of the congress by quoting the words of a Tang dynasty poet who had written that "the phoenix chick sings sweeter than the older birds." Yet he remained on his perch in what had all the appearances of a hard-fought compromise between party moderates and conservatives, and so, too, did Deng, Li Xiannian and Chen Yun, despite the predictions that all would retire to a new panel of advisers approved by the congress.

Marshal Ye is regarded as leader of the main opposition to moderate Dengist policies. Indeed, it is rumored here that Ye is hanging on in the belief he is perhaps the only one in the "opposition" who can hope to moderate what the hard-liners consider to be dangerous Dengist excesses, such as Deng's apparent willingness to tolerate limited freedom in art and literature.

At the NPC opening, Deng appeared not at all discomfited by Ye's difficulties in performing even a ceremonial role. Deng spent much of the occasion chatting amiably with his protégé, the party's general secretary, Hu Yaobang, who sat to his right. Marshal Ye, in remark on the eve of the parliamentary session, dropped what appeared to be a hint that he was about to retire from his state positions. He said in an interview with *the People's Daily*, the Communist Party newspaper: "I am 85, the future of China lies in the hands of our young people."

Chinese are perhaps wondering whether too much should be read into Marshal Ye's acknowledgment of his own mortality. (Depthnews)

Party revolt adds to Bolivian instability

By Paul Tarr

LONDON —

Bolivia's hard-pressed government is still in deep trouble. Despite a month of talks, ministers from the MIR — Movement of the Revolutionary Left — one of the three left-wing parties that make up President Siles Zuazo's ruling coalition, show no sign of returning to the government.

The MIR, Bolivia's fastest growing party, pulled out of the government Jan. 9 over "internal differences," confronting Zuazo with his first serious crisis since taking office last October after 18 years of almost uninterrupted military rule.

After the president's own party, the National Revolutionary Party of the Left, or MNRI, the MIR is the largest of the parties making up the ruling UDP coalition which topped the polls in June 1980 but was prevented from taking power by a military coup the next month. The resignation of the six ministers reflects growing discontent both inside the coalition and between the government and its supporters in the unions and the general population. The MIR appears intent on distancing itself from the government's austerity program, designed

to placate the IMF and help Bolivia meet its obligations to international banks.

Faced with negative growth, inflation of over 200 percent a year, no foreign reserves and an external debt close to \$4 billion, Zuazo last November introduced an economic package aimed at paving the way for an agreement with the IMF for a standby credit facility. According to finance ministry officials, the country has no choice but to appease international aid organizations if it is to obtain badly-needed loans while, at the same time, satisfying existing creditors — especially a consortium of foreign banks to which it must repay a total of \$135 million by April.

As is now apparent, the price of this external assistance has been high in terms of the continued support for the government from workers, unions and political allies. Crucial to the president's economic package were steep rises in the price of petrol, transport and most everyday necessities. Subsidies to the dominant state-owned sector were drastically cut and the minimum wage increased by a mere 30 percent instead of the 150 percent demanded by the unions.

After surviving the threat of an all-out national strike came the news that the MIR was pulling out.

Several unsuccessful attempts at reconciliation have been made by the president and the country's Communist Party, the PCB, which is the third largest member of the coalition. Observers in La Paz regard a new pact as increasingly unlikely and point ominously to divisions inside the MNRI itself as a source of further instability for the beleaguered regime.

Zuazo is reported to be increasingly concerned over divergences between the "traditional," more conservative, wing of his own party and the younger MPs who make up the "radical" leftist wing of the MNRI.

The U.S., which resumed economic aid to Bolivia in October, is known to be alarmed at reports circulating in the capital that Zuazo is losing control to the radicals. Worried about the inclusion of two Communist Party members in the cabinet, the U.S., it is feared, will slowly tighten the noose on Bolivia's tottering economy by reducing aid and opposing future credit from the IMF and other international agencies unless the president is able to curb the influence of his more left-wing supporters and resolve present internal differences within his government. (LOS)

Letters to the editor

'TV of Qur'an Karim'

Sir,

I request the authorities to set up a special television which will be known as 'Television of Qur'an Karim' just as 'Radio of Qur'an Karim'. All the programs should be the same as Saudi Arabian Radio of Qur'an Karim.

Abdul-Salam Ibn Yusuf,
Makkah

Jeddah-Bombay flights

Sir,

I would like to support the letter published in Arab News Jan. 6 on Jeddah-Bombay flights. The present Jeddah-Bombay flight arrival time 7.15 p.m. at Bombay is not convenient to a large number of passengers. By the time one gets out of the customs, it is 10 p.m. Many passengers, specially with families, are inconvenienced.

I request the Saudia authorities to review the

timings and make Bombay arrival around 5 p.m. as before.

I also take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Saudia authorities toward a long-standing desire of Indian passengers to have at least weekly two non-stop Jeddah-Bombay flights.

Javed Kadri
P.O. Box 165
Jeddah



Today is Wednesday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 1983. There are 318 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1666 — Holland signs treaty of alliance with Great Elector of Brandenburg.

1808 — France invades Spain.

1871 — Franco-Prussian War ends in defeat for France.

1934 — Britain and Soviet Union sign trade pact.

1942 — German submarines fire upon oil refineries in Aruba, Dutch West Indies, in World War II.

1943 — Soviet troops recapture Kharkov from Germans in World War II.

1953 — South Africa institutes emergency powers under Public Safety Bill.

1959 — Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba.

1962 — Anti-government riots break out in Georgetown, British Guiana.

1976 — Moscow says Arab states will get "necessary support" from Soviet Union in their conflict with Israel.

1978 — Japan and China sign \$20-billion trade pact in Peking.

1980 — U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim prepares to name panel to investigate alleged crimes committed by Qasbi Shah of Iran.

Thought for today:

Few people get up bright and early, but most of us just get up early — Anonymous.

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Over farm subsidies

Trade war with U.S. looms--Lambsdorff

BONN, Feb. 15 (R) — West German Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff said the U.S. should not adopt protectionist trade policies and said the settlement of recent disputes has not disposed of potential new clashes with Europe.

Addressing the German-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, in a speech released in Bonn, Lambsdorff reminded the U.S. of its agreement at the last "Tokyo round" GATT negotiations in 1979 not to undermine the European Economic Community's common agricultural policy.

He said in view of its \$6.8 billion agricultural trade surplus with the EEC, the U.S. should reconsider its threat to subsidize farm exports.

Lambsdorff said the U.S. should also think again about its plans to limit specialty steel imports.

This could lead to a series of restrictive agreements amongst European firms which could easily become permanent and result in regulation of the world steel market in the same way textile trade is controlled, he said.

He called on the U.S. government to oppose protectionist laws being promoted inside Congress, and particularly referred to the local content bill which would require imported cars to contain a number of U.S.-made parts.

In another development EEC officials said in Brussels Monday Japanese measures to restrain some exports to the EEC will avert a damaging trade war.

The measures, which will affect 10 products, were agreed in Tokyo at the weekend by a delegation led by the community's commissioners in charge of external relations and industry.

Another U.S. bank goes bust this year

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP) — The United American Bank of Knoxville collapsed Monday, the fourth bank failure in the United States since Jan. 1, and federal regulators are expecting many more such collapses before the year is out.

There were 42 failures in all of last year, the highest level since 1940, when 43 banks closed.

William Isaac, head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said recently that the expected failure pace this year "to be at least as busy" as in 1982.

Regulators attribute the surge in failures — there were only 10 in 1981 — to the stagnant economy and high interest rates, which analysts say have made it harder for some borrowers to repay loans.

Economic crisis said spreading

BAGHDAD, Feb. 15 (R) — Asian members of the Group of 77 ended a preparatory meeting for the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with a gloomy view of the world economic situation.

Ministers attending the three-day session expressed their "serious concern that the economic crisis which began in the developed countries has assumed global dimensions enveloping all regions, thus contributing further to the deterioration in the already negative trends in international relations."

U.S. farm exports to Jamaica total \$20m

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP) — The U.S. Agriculture Department announced on Monday the sale of \$20.5 million in U.S. commodities to Jamaica under the second phase of President Ronald Reagan's blended-credit program to expand U.S. farm exports.

The Jamaican sale covers \$4.4 million in corn, \$1.3 million in rice, \$7.5 million in soybeans, \$800,000 in wheat flour and \$6.5 million in lumber.

It is being financed by \$4.1 million in direct, interest-free federal credits and another \$16.4 million in government-backed loans from commercial banks.

The second phase of the blended credit program, announced by Reagan last Jan. 11, totals \$250 million in direct, interest-free federal loans and another \$1 billion in government loan guarantees. The first phase, announced last October, totaled \$100 million in direct government loans and \$400 million in guarantees.

It was through the blended credit program that the U.S. last month sold one million metric tons of wheat flour to Egypt, recapturing the lion's share of the market that was being dominated by the French.

Coconut coir a waste no more in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Feb. 15 (Depthnews) — The mighty coconut is making a dent in Sri Lanka's overloaded fuel oil bill.

The promise is such that a private company, Ceylon Tobacco Company (CTC), is cashing in on the production of solid fuels — from coconut coir dust to fuel briquettes.

Ceylon Tobacco has set up a pilot coir dust processing plant in Negenambo, 22 miles from here, in the vicinity of a fiber mill. The plant can turn out 4,000 kilograms of briquettes in an eight-hour working day.

The coconut is a fibrous fruit which has more of a by-product in it than a product. One of its byproducts is coir dust with no one knowing how to get rid of this nuisance waste. No use, either domestic or commercial, has been found for it so far.

It is estimated that there are unwanted stockpiles dating back 40 years, coir dust disgorged by the fiber mills which discharge

Processing plant set up

something like 150,000 tons per year. Now comes the briquettes plant, the machinery designed by Sri Lankan engineers led by Jatal D. Mannapperuma of the tobacco company.

Coir dust has some special problems, in that its moisture content is high (85 percent) while it has low density. Under conventional drying conditions, the material needs more fuel to dry it than the fuel item that is produced by drying it, says Mannapperuma.

But the new machinery fabricated at the pilot plant overcame these difficulties. Once the coir dust passes through these machines, including a large mixing press, the briquettes come out in solidified lengths. In the thickness of a bamboo pole, the lengths can be broken up into convenient pieces for firing boilers and furnaces.

Coir dust briquettes are not as cheap as

firewood. At present one kilo of firewood costs 40 Sri Lanka cents (\$0.03) while one kilo of briquettes costs 1.50 rupees (\$0.10).

But Mannapperuma says that experiments have shown that coir dust briquettes could be used economically as industrial fuel, but not as a replacement for firewood. In this sense, it is the answer to the high energy costs of fuel oil and electricity.

It is ideal for small-scale industries like bakeries, laundries, brick-and-tile-making works, and even in the tea industry. But its uses are not quite confined to small units with the Ceylon Tobacco Company itself using the briquettes in their curing processes. Trials have shown that the briquettes can be used as effectively as firewood in flat grate furnaces designed for firewood or coal.

The first of the industrial boiler conversions was done at the essential oils plant of CTC.

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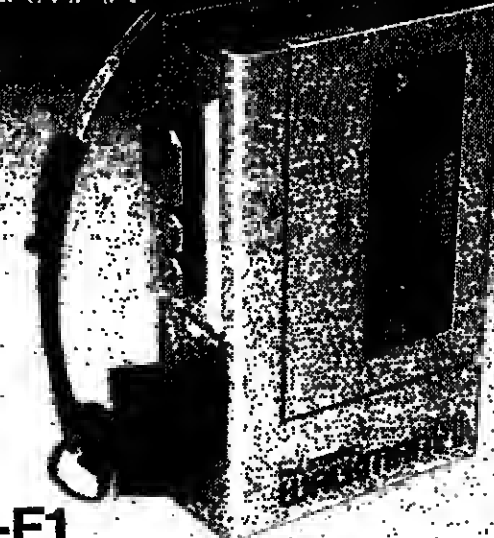


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Toyota-GM deal in offing

Japan's curbs on car exports to U.S. stay

TOKYO, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — Japan Tuesday announced that it would continue to restrain car exports to the United States and Canada this year and said a joint car production deal between Toyota and General Motors would help the U.S. motor industry.

The companies have agreed in principle to produce jointly a small car for the U.S. market from early 1985 at a General Motors plant in California with a Japanese-appointed manager. Toyota said about half the car's content would be of American origin.

Japan's international trade and industry minister, Sadanori Yamanaka, told reporters the Toyota-General Motors deal would contribute to the revitalization of idle American factories and increase employment in the United States.

The minister said in a statement that Tokyo would continue to hold car exports to the U.S. at 1.68 million for a third year from April 1 but added that the agreement would not be continued into a fourth year.

Japanese motor industry sources said U.S. carmakers had been hoping for another two

years of restraint under the agreement, aimed at allowing them time to retool and meet Japanese competition in the U.S. market.

The Trade Ministry also said Tuesday that Japanese car exports to Canada for the first six months of 1983 would be less than 79,000, or 12 percent lower than the 90,000 sent in the same period a year ago. A ministry spokesman expressed hope that the two countries would soon resume talks on a target for the whole year.

Japanese exports took almost 30 percent of the dwindling Canadian car market in 1982 despite officially-sanctioned customs delays in Vancouver.

General Motors, the largest U.S. carmaker, and Toyota have agreed on a 50-50 joint venture to produce annually 200,000 Japanese-designed and powered family cars at the idle General Motors plant at Fremont, California, where the deal is to be signed Thursday.

Under the 12-year agreement which requires approval by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, Toyota and General Motors will put up \$150 million each for the production of a 1600 c.c. car at Fremont. This car will be an enhanced version of the "Corolla" and will be marketed from the end of next year.

The plant will have a 3,000 workforce and another 9,000 jobs will be created indirectly. Initial output target is 200,000 units per annum.

Toyota has traditionally been more hesitant than its rivals Nissan and Honda in the realm of international strategy. It was urged by the U.S. authorities and United Auto Workers in 1980 to set up in the United States.

Britain confirms stockpiling minerals

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R) — The British government has decided to establish a small stockpile of strategic minerals but details are confidential, British parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Industry John MacGregor said.

In reply to a written question, MacGregor told the House of Commons (lower house) most of the purchases planned for this year have been made or arrangements for them are at an advanced stage.

He said further details of the stockpile will be given in a supplementary estimate to be submitted to the House shortly.

A department of industry spokesman declined to elaborate on the statement but said a report on the subject in the *Financial Times* was accurate.



OIL GLUT TELLS: Aerial view shows 14 of 19 offshore oil rigs lying idle and at anchor in Sabine Pass, Texas, because of the oil glut. Elsewhere, along the Gulf coast, an estimated 34 other rigs are idle.

To bolster jobs

U.S. proposes \$ 7.5b plan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (R) — The White House is proposing a \$7.5 billion program of public works jobs, emergency food and shelter assistance and extended unemployment benefits, congressional Democratic leaders said.

Budget Director David Stockman and White House Chief of Staff James Baker outlined the administration's proposal at a secret meeting last Thursday with House Speaker Thomas O'Neill and other Democrats.

Some of the details of the administration's proposal came to light Monday, and O'Neill said the package may go to the House floor for virtually certain approval as early as next week.

The administration's plan calls for \$4.1 billion to stimulate jobs, \$2.50 billion for emergency assistance, \$2.9 billion for extended unemployment benefits and \$276 million for employment services.

The White House is sending the proposal to Congress under strong pressure from both Republicans and Democrats in an effort to relieve serious problems created by the recession.

In another development Treasury Secretary Donald Regan said the administration would submit legislation to Congress seeking approval for an increase of about 47 percent in financing for the International Monetary

Fund. Regan, in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, said the legislative proposals will be submitted "formally within a very few days."

He said it was very important that the United States reach "an orderly resolution" of the problems now facing the international financial system. He said the IMF must play a key role in this attempt.

Regan said the funds should be appropriated to assist the IMF because of the effects of world financial difficulties on trade and other financial developments important to the U.S.

Regan said a squeeze on earnings and capital positions from losses on foreign loans would impair banks' ability to finance world trade.

He told the committee that the U.S. government itself also faces a potential exposure to the losses through federal lending programs administered by the Export-Import Bank and the Commodity Credit Corp.

He said that if loans extended or guaranteed under these programs go sour, "the U.S. taxpayer — meaning the U.S. taxpayer — would be left with the loss."

UAE's economy remains stable

ABU DHABI, Feb. 15 (WAM) — The economy of the UAE remained sound throughout 1982 which can be regarded as the year of consolidation of the economic gains in the UAE "despite the plethora of undermining extraneous influences, including the weakness in the world market for crude oil."

This was revealed in the latest issue of *Trade and Industry*, the official journal of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The economic policy of the country was described as "pragmatic" the journal said UAE enjoys the distinction of being perhaps the only country in the world having a free enterprise economy.

"It is creditable that the economic policies pursued by the UAE have evoked plaudits from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The executive directors of the IMF have also praised UAE's aid to poor countries... UAE is one of the few oil-producing countries which have registered a balance of payment surplus notwithstanding the cut in oil prices as well as output."

The journal, quoting the 1982 data sheet published in Washington by the Population Reference Bureau, revealed that the UAE has the highest per capita GNP in the world. The data sheet has shown UAE's per capita GNP at \$30,070.

W. Europe realizes

Welfare states not feasible

BRUSSELS, Feb. 15 (AP) — Western European governments have awakened from their postwar dreams of creating perfect welfare states.

From Denmark, where some old age pensions are being cut this year, to Italy, where subsidies for medicine have been lowered, nearly a dozen recession-gripped governments will try to spend less money in 1983 for social programs. And if unemployment gets worse, as experts predict, the search for cuts may continue for several years.

"Whether they're Socialist or not, the governments are now following the same path," said Philip Calderbank, an economist in the European Common Market's social affairs department. "They are all trying to find ways to save money on social security."

It's been 96 years since imperial Germany established Europe's first nationwide pension system. Since then governments in Europe have sought to expand social benefits.

In the Netherlands, where a family gets a monthly stipend equivalent to \$50 for having two children, nearly one-third of the gross national product goes for social benefits. You can get public money in Western Europe for being a child, a student, handicapped, out of work, sick, old and a widow.

But the recession has cut tax receipts and reduced the number of people paying into social welfare funds — at a time governments are paying more benefits to the jobless, who number 12 million in the 10 Common Market

countries alone. And fewer workers are able to pay the growing costs of pensions for an aging population. Social welfare accounted for one fifth of the gross product in the Common Market in 1970. In the Netherlands, the center-right government cut 10 different categories of social benefits in December.

Within a month of taking office in December, Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani announced a \$1 billion cut in government contributions to old age insurance and a \$1.5 billion reduction in pension benefits to higher earners. A \$1.05 tax on prescriptions and other changes in sickness benefits has sparked strikes by Italian health workers.

In Britain, social spending has been increasing at a rate of \$4.8 billion a year, mainly because of benefits for the 3.1 million people.

The Conservative Party government cut social security payments 5 percent and has begun taxing unemployment benefits. The purchasing power of a welfare family of four living on the government's \$126-a-week dole is less now than it was a year ago.

Opposition Labor Party member Jeff Rooker says the government is expressing concern about unemployment, "but of concern at the actual plight of the unemployed and their families there is no evidence."

Unemployment benefits to non-heads of household have been cut in Belgium, and the government has just proposed taxing social benefits for the first time.

Oman said cutting oil price

BAHRAIN, Feb. 15 (R) — Oman's reopened talks with its oil company customers on cutting the price of its crude, informed oil industry sources said Tuesday.

They said the Omanis appeared to be offering a \$4 discount on the current official price of just over \$34 a barrel.

Oman produces only 350,000 barrels of oil a day and it is not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It is a member of the six-country Gulf Cooperation Council.

Industry analysts said a confirmed reduction in Oman's price would be of considerable significance. Oman first began talking to the oil companies about a cut in its price last December. Industry sources said it offered a \$2.50 a barrel reduction to Japanese refiners but a major European oil company insisted on a \$4 cut.

Oman halted an earlier round of price talks to await the outcome of last month's Geneva meeting of OPEC at which the exporter group failed to come up with an output-sharing formula to defend its \$34 benchmark price.

The industry analysts said it was not clear if the companies were still willing to accept a \$4 discount, since the gap between official prices and those on the depressed spot or non-contract market had widened even further.

Industry sources said Oman wanted its customers to accept a fixed price for all of 1983.

but companies were reluctant to become locked into levels which might appear high if an OPEC price-cutting war developed.

The oil industry expects Gulf oil ministers to meet soon to coordinate strategy on dealing with the oil glut that is at the root of the pricing crisis.

The Gulf states appear to be waiting for action on prices by North Sea exporters, the sources said.

U.K.'s industrial output rises by 1.5%

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R) — U.K. industrial production rose a provisional 1.5 percent seasonally adjusted in December after a 1.4 percent fall in November, revised from the originally reported fall of 1.2 percent, central statistical office figures show.

The all industries index was provisionally set at a seasonally adjusted 101.5, base 1975, compared with 100.0 in November, and was 1.3 percent higher than 100.2 in December 1981.

The index of manufacturing output in December rose a provisional 0.5 percent to 86.8, base 1975, after a 1.1 percent decline the previous month, revised from the originally reported fall of 0.8 percent.

In December, the manufacturing output index stood at 1.9 percent below the year-ago level.

BRIEFS

Paris (AFP) — France will for the time being continue centralized customs clearance of Japanese and other video tape recorders (VTRs) at Poitiers in central France, a Foreign Trade Ministry source said here Tuesday.

Ending of these arrangements could follow a European Economic Community (EEC) ministerial meeting in Brussels on Feb. 21 at which Japan's proposed voluntary export curbs on VTRs will be considered along with other Japanese trade matters.

TOKYO (R) — The Export-Import Bank of Japan said it has signed an agreement here to lend the Bank of China 42 billion yen to help finance Chinese coal development projects. The loan, to be repaid in 11 to 12 years, will carry interest of 6.25 percent per annum, it said.

MIAMI (AP) — The Cuban government, trying to pull its economy out of a slump, announced a program to buy throwaway items from consumers for recycling. One hundred stores have already opened on the Communist island to purchase citizens' waste paper, cardboard, glass containers and scrap metals, Havana radio said in a broadcast Monday.

held in Miami.

CAIRO (AP) — Lebanese Economy and Tourism Minister Ibrahim Halawa arrived Monday night for talks with Egyptian officials on ways of expanding trade, the Middle East News Agency said Tuesday. The state-run agency said Halawa will spend several days in Cairo and will confer with officials in charge of foreign trade and economic affairs.

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Japan is likely to remain the largest aid donor to Pakistan, a Japanese official has said. Though the aid level for 1983 has not been determined by the Japanese government, K. Matsura, deputy director general of the Economic Cooperation Bureau in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said. However, he said Japan is likely to enhance its economic assistance to Pakistan during fiscal 1983, starting April 1.

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. business inventories fell \$3.05 billion, or 0.6 percent, to a seasonally adjusted \$505.38 billion in December, the Commerce Department said. December's decline follows a November decrease of \$5.6 billion, or 1.1 percent, the department also said.

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FDA examining cases

'Morning sickness' drug and birth defects

By Morton Mintz

WASHINGTON, (WP) — Lawyers filed on behalf of seven children and their parents in the U.S. allege that the children were born without arms or legs or with other grave limb deformities because their mothers took bendectin, the only government-approved drug for the "morning sickness" of early pregnancy.

Lawyers have been retained on behalf of seven more similarly deformed children and their parents. The 14 cases of severe malformations open a new chapter in a continuing controversy about whether bendectin taken in the first several weeks after conception has a cause-effect link to any of several birth defects, ranging from cleft palates to potentially fatal hernias.

The Food and Drug Administration is examining the cases but says that no evidence to date establishes causal connections. The FDA's most relentless critic, the Public Citizen Health Research Group (HRG), and the manufacturer, Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals Inc., took the same position.

"Because bendectin is widely used in pregnancy (about 20 percent of pregnant women have used it in the past), many abnormalities will occur in babies exposed to the drug,

whether or not the drug caused them," the FDA said. The agency also urged women to read the leaflet enclosed in the package and renewed its advice that bendectin "should be used only when more conservative treatment of nausea and vomiting has failed."

In Cincinnati a Merrell Dow spokesman said that each of the 14 cases "must be looked at individually. There are variations from case to case, and no two are alike. Such things as the type of defect, when bendectin was taken, other drugs that may have been ingested and genetic factors are among those that must be examined..." "We still contend that the drug is the most tested one for pregnant women, and the accumulated human studies continue to show a lack of association between use of bendectin and an increase in birth defects," the spokesman said. Similarly, the FDA said that "two dozen studies involving exposures to bendectin during pregnancy have not shown a link between (it) and limb-reduction defects."

The chief plaintiffs' lawyer, James G. Butler of Los Angeles, pointed out that the human studies have been faulted by the FDA's own medical officers. He urged FDA commissioner Arthur H. Hays Jr. to halt sales of bendectin. Butler also cited a two-month-old federally funded study indicating

that women in early pregnancy who swallowed the original bendectin tablets may have quadrupled the risk of pyloric stenosis, a birth defect of the stomach that restricts an infant's ability to eat and can cause severe dehydration and malnutrition.

Butler is a long time legal adversary of the company, having won a \$2.75 million jury award against it in 1972 for a legless child whose mother had taken thalidomide, a sedative-tranquilizer that caused thousands of such severe injuries worldwide in the 1960s. Thalidomide was "tested" but not sold here. Over the last two years, Butler said in an interview, lawyers around the country who knew of his thalidomide victory referred most of the 14 cases. He said he intends to seek compensatory and punitive damages for all of the children.

In addition, the U.S. district court in Cincinnati is conducting pre-trial proceedings in about 150 bendectin cases in which various birth defects are alleged. The parents of the 14 children — nine boys and five girls ranging in age from 3 to 20 — have released photos showing the deformities and statements about their cases to the FDA and to the Washington Post. At the time Butler was preparing for trial of one of the lawsuits. The plaintiff, Anne E. Koller, 3, has no

arms, no right leg and severely deformed left leg. She was born at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here but now lives in Broken Arrow, Okla. The company, formerly a unit of Richardson-Merrell Inc., contends that "bendectin has been used safely in over 31 million pregnancies," that "there has been no proof of any increase in the incidence of birth defects associated with its use" and that "there is no evidence that it caused Anne Koller's birth defects." In addition, a company spokesman said, "there is a serious question when Mrs. Koller may have taken bendectin."

The 14 children include a girl who is missing major portions of all four limbs. Six are armless; Anne Koller, a boy with shortened thigh bones, a boy with a severely deformed left leg and Tawana Herring, 19, of Washington. Matthew Demeritt, 13, of Inglewood, born without legs, played "E.T." in the movie of the same name. Butler said. Pauline Sand, 7, of Fairfield, has stubs for arms and no right leg. The company spokesman said there is "no record" that Pauline's mother took the drug.

For 20 years after bendectin went on sale in 1956, it contained a now-abandoned anti-spasm compound, a vitamin and an antihistamine called doxylamine succinate. Abroad, the company continues to sell the three-part mixture as debendox, lenoxan and meribital. Two 1981 animal studies, called "preliminary and unconfirmed" in the current official bendectin labeling, are cited in court papers filed in court by Butler. One showed a possible link between doxylamine and potentially fatal hernia in rats. The second found a hole in the heart wall of seven fetuses of monkeys given the current version of the drug, which combines doxylamine with a vitamin.

Butler also has filed animal studies indicating that doxylamine, as well as many other antihistamines and potent drugs, can damage the nerve that controls the development of an embryo's brain and spinal cord and can upset normal limb development. The studies go back to one published in 1950 by a University of California biologist.

The FDA rated bendectin "effective" in 1976 after the anti-spasm compound was dropped but had rated it "ineffective" at an earlier point. But HRG Director Sidney M. Wolfe says that FDA files contain not a single study showing bendectin to be effective as required by law.



GENE TRANSFER: Gene transfer from rats to unborn mice, in a U.S. laboratory, resulted in mice (left) that grew to twice the weight of normal mice (right). This major advance could eventually lead to an increase in world food supply through the development of larger farm animals.

Gene transfer breakthrough

WASHINGTON — In a major advance in genetic engineering, U.S. scientists transferred a gene from rats to unborn mice, in the laboratory, resulting in mice that grew to twice the normal weight.

"This is the first time we have seen such dramatic expression of a transferred gene throughout an entire animal," says Dr. William Sadler, of the Department of Health and Human Services, which supported the research.

Important future applications of this new technology could lead to an increase in the world's food supply through the development of larger farm animals.

Scientists have speculated for some years about the possibility of transferring genes from one animal to another as a way of replacing defective or missing genes. Until now, however, there had been no indications that the transferred genes worked in a useful manner.

The critical features of the experiments was the fusion of a strong and active regulating genetic element to a useful gene. The investigators combined the gene that produces growth hormone in the rats with a regulating element from a blood protein gene of mice. This fused gene complex was transferred to fertilized mouse eggs.

The eggs containing the injected gene complex were then placed in surrogate mothers where they continued their development. A number of the injected

eggs gave rise to healthy embryos which were born after the usual gestation period. Although the newborn mice appeared normal, within the next few weeks many of them grew very rapidly and continued growing until their body weights were almost twice that of normal mice.

The accelerated growth of these animals and their large size clearly indicated that the injected genes were working in the developing mice.

Although it is not now possible to apply this technology to humans, it nevertheless has a number of important implications. The experiments show that it is possible to transfer genes from one animal to another and to have the transferred genes function in a more or less normal way. Applications of this technology to large farm animals may have practical consequences. The ability to accelerate growth rates in domestic animals could have beneficial effects by increasing the yield and quality of meat and milk.

An especially important advantage is that the injected genes should be passed to the animal's offspring which, in turn, are likely to produce large amounts of the desired gene products.

Finally, these discoveries will provide productive lines of experimentation in laboratory animals, allowing new approaches to the study of modern molecular biology which should lead to a better understanding of both congenital diseases and cancer.

TOBACCO THREAT THEN AND NOW

For Mr. A.: I believe you will be interested in how doctors felt about tobacco years ago as contrasted to present day beliefs. For example, I've been reading an editorial which appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* September 16, 1905. Here are some partial quotes:

"Next to alcohol, there is probably no substance used by man which has been so vilified and condemned as tobacco. There were at one time European countries in which smoking was illegal, and in Turkey the offense was, for a short period, punishable by death."

"The attitude of certain persons in authority regarding the practice of smoking during the early days of the habit is shown by the words of James I. of England, expressed in his celebrated 'Counterblast to Tobacco.' He describes smoking as 'a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the stinking black fumes thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.'"

"The consumption of this substance in its various forms reaches an enormous figure each year, and one is tempted to ask, if it is so harmful, why do not physicians see more of its ill effects?"

"Tobacco is undoubtedly injurious during childhood and youth —

the evidence that it is to any great degree injurious to the mature adult is much less strong."

At last, Mr. A., physicians do "see more of its ill effects." Over a period of 75 years, much of the evidence is in. These are the reasons why doctors warn their patients against smoking and smoke less themselves: coronary heart disease, hypertension, disease in the leg arteries, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, lung cancer, duodenal ulcer etc. A list long enough to scare anyone — doctors included.

MEDICALETTES

(Replies to and from readers)

Dear Dr. Steiner: I missed it on TV and in the daily newspaper — but a friend tells me that there's evidence more men die of heart attack on Mondays than on any other day. Is there anything to this or is he kidding? — Mrs. B.

Dear Mrs. B.: The reports are true. They appeared originally in the JAMA 19/9/80 — presented by Simon W. Rabkin, M.D. after a study of 3,983 deaths from sudden heart failure. Monday stood out way ahead of the other six days for men with no previous history of heart attacks. The reason? Perhaps due to occupation stress after a weekend of respite. Seventy-five percent of deaths occurring at work were on Monday.

Dr. Peter J. Steiner
M.D., F.A.C.P.

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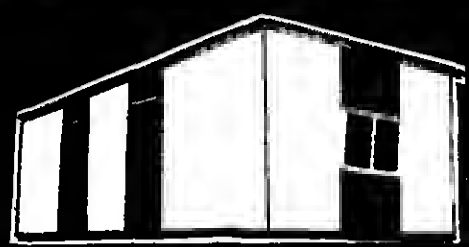
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Officials rush to the scene

100 reported slain in Assam massacre

NEW DELHI, Feb. 15 (R) — Senior officials and police Tuesday rushed to the scene of a reported massacre involving tribal gangs armed with bows, arrows and spears in India's strife-torn northeastern state of Assam.

An Assam government spokesman said in the state capital of Gauhati that the situation in the central Darrang district was under control after tribesmen went on the rampage in 15 villages last weekend. The state-run All India Radio quoted the spokesman as saying 10 bodies had been found so far and 1,000

village huts burned down.

But press reports Tuesday said at least 100 died in the massacre, about 130 kilometers northeast of Gauhati. The reports said gangs armed with spears, machetes and bows and arrows attacked Assamese villagers and drove them from their homes in raids starting around midnight last Saturday. If the massacre figure is confirmed it will take the overall death toll in election-linked violence in the past two weeks to well over 200.

The elections are bitterly opposed by Assamese political and student groups

demanding the eviction from the state of illegal immigrants, mostly Muslims from Bangladesh. The predominantly Hindu Assamese say they are in danger of being swamped by the immigrants who have been pouring into the state since the 1950s.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's decision to call elections, which began Monday, was made after negotiations between the government and the Assamese militants broke down. Many pre-poll deaths came as police tried to disperse violent crowds attacking candidates or groups of police. At least 40

persons have died in clashes between Assamese and immigrants.

A government spokesman said tension had been high in Darrang since last Friday after an "aggressive campaign" by anti-election militants. The spokesman, quoted by the Press Trust of India news agency, said tribal groups went on the rampage Saturday following some clashes and a rumor that the son of a tribal organization election candidate had been kidnapped and murdered.

There was a counterattack on tribal villages Sunday, he said.

Turin mourns victims of fire; arson ruled out

TURIN, Italy, Feb. 15 (R) — Police Tuesday ruled out arson as a possible cause of Sunday's cinema blaze which killed 64 persons and plunged this north Italian city into mourning. Investigators said the most likely possibilities still appeared to be an electrical short circuit, a dropped cigarette or perhaps a firework thrown by a practical joker.

They also said it was clear escape through the emergency exits had been impossible. A three-man committee of experts, appointed Monday by magistrates, began lengthy

inspection of the blackened 60-year-old cinema with a close look at its electrical wiring and projection room.

A police spokesman said that although the committee would consider all possibilities, "I would say that arson can definitely be ruled out at this stage."

One committee member, Vito Corresca, told journalists it had been given 40 days to find the cause of one of Italy's most lethal postwar fires. He said it would not exclude any possibility in an effort to explain how a small blaze quickly turned the cinema into a gas chamber where those trapped on the upper floor choked to death.

It is now clear that the blaze was concentrated in a small corner of the cinema but quickly smothered the building in poisonous black smoke as it burned through the synthetic material of the seats.

Smoke billowing up the main stairs apparently trapped those seated in the upper gallery. Some tried to flee along a corridor but it led to a cul-de-sac in the cinema's toilets where many died.

The first consideration must be to determine why there was such a discrepancy between the small size of the fire and the quantity of smoke it produced, the deputy commander of the fire brigade, Bruno Nicoletti, said.

City officials Tuesday began transporting the plain wooden coffins of the victims, most of them youngsters, from the mortuary to the cathedral, where the funeral will be held Wednesday. About a thousand people watched as they were carried in.

American couple held in Thailand

BANGKOK, Feb. 15 (R) — An American couple were arrested in a house on the banks of the Mekong River during the weekend and police suspect they may be linked with Hollywood-financed mercenary James (Bo) Griz.

After keeping the house under surveillance for several weeks, police said they raided it Sunday and arrested Lance Edward Trimmer, 43, from San Francisco and Lynn Stenderwick, 25, from New Mexico.

A variety of items including gas masks, jungle camouflage, fatigues, three radio receivers/transmitters and scuba diving equipment were also found in the house at Nakhon Phanom, 735 kilometers southeast of Bangkok, police said. But there were no weapons. The couple were being held for illegal possession of radio receivers, police said.

But Nakhon Phanom police chief, Lt. Col. Thalergrakdi Sukhonthamarn, told Reuters in a telephone interview, "it is highly likely that the two arrested Americans are connected with the Bo Griz group, although at the moment we have no evidence to prove it."

It was from Nakhon Phanom, according to newspaper reports, that Griz last November launched an abortive raid into the Laos to find American prisoners of war he believed still being held by Vietnam.

Since then The Bangkok Post newspaper has reported that Griz, 43, is planning a second raid into Laos in search of prisoners. There are 2,500 Americans still unaccounted for since the end of the Vietnam War but Vietnam denies it is holding any of them.

Griz was given financial backing by Hollywood star Clint Eastwood and William Shatner, captain of the intrepid spaceship in the star trek saga, in exchange for the film rights on his mission.

Moscow visit begins today

Cheysson to meet Gromyko

PARIS, Feb. 15 (AFP) — Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson is to begin an official visit to the Soviet Union Wednesday as both Paris and Moscow are said to be anxious to preserve a dialogue despite major disagreements on three key issues.

Cheysson's visit, the first to Moscow of a French foreign minister since 1979, is not expected to resolve all the outstanding differences in Franco-Soviet relations as the circumstances that have provoked the divergence of views have not changed, according to one informed French source.

The foreign minister is scheduled to meet his Soviet counterpart, Andrei Gromyko, where major steps toward improving diplomatic ties could be taken — has not been officially planned. But at the same time, such an encounter has not been completely ruled out.

N-war threat growing, says U.N. chief

GENEVA, Switzerland, Feb. 15 (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday the threat of nuclear war is growing but there is increasing awareness that it would be a "conflict in which there will be no winners."

Addressing the 40-nation United Nations Disarmament Committee, he said the danger of nuclear war breaking out "seems to have increased with the advent of new weapons and their greater accuracy of delivery." But he said in public debate, "the realization is dawning that the choice is between new generations of weapons and future human generations."

"At the heart of the public movement that is now gathering strength lies a deepening understanding... of the true nature of nuclear war, a conflict in which there will be no winners, and what will be left has been described as a republic of grass and insects."

While stressing "the special and heavy responsibility" of the nuclear weapon powers, the secretary-general said effective measures to promote conventional disarmament were equally essential "to help prevent the violence we see today in many parts of the world."

"As a national of a developing country I am especially concerned at the grievous and senseless waste of resources on armaments which could instead be used to meet fundamental requirements" in the Third World, said Perez de Cuellar.

Javier Perez de Cuellar also said at a press conference that he rejects the United States plan that self-rule for Southwest Africa must be linked to withdrawal of Cuban troops from neighboring Angola.

Perez de Cuellar also said the black-ruled states near South Africa are increasingly impatient with U.N. sanctioned efforts to negotiate an end to Pretoria's administration of Southwest Africa, a sprawling, mineral-rich territory commonly known as Namibia.

Cheysson will be preparing the ground for a visit to the Soviet Union of President Francois Mitterrand.

Franco-Soviet ties were profoundly shaken by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the upheavals in Poland and by a sharply contradictory analysis of the balance of forces in Europe — which France contends was upset with the installation of Soviet SS-20 missiles targeted on Western Europe. The gap separating Paris and Moscow on these issues has not appreciably narrowed and is not likely to during Cheysson's visit.

But the French are nonetheless convinced that the dialogue must be strengthened and endowed with a greater degree of formality. The critical point in the foreign minister's upcoming discussions is almost certain to be European security, where France and the Soviet Union currently remain far apart in their respective positions.

Soviet leader have reportedly been surprised that France has aligned itself with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the planned deployment of 572 U.S.-made Pershing and Cruise missiles in Western Europe later this year. France is no longer a member of the military wing of the alliance and none of the missiles is to be deployed on its territory.

For the Soviet Union, as reflected in a recent commentary by the Novosti news agency, the deployment of the NATO rockets will not reinforce the security of France, which, the agency stressed, already possesses a considerable nuclear potential.

Cheysson and Gromyko are likewise expected to discuss major international issues, most notably Afghanistan, Poland, the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East. On the latter point, observers have noted, France and the Soviet Union do share a similar analysis.

Cheysson will also sign an agreement covering a new 10-year program of scientific and technical cooperation.

The late burial

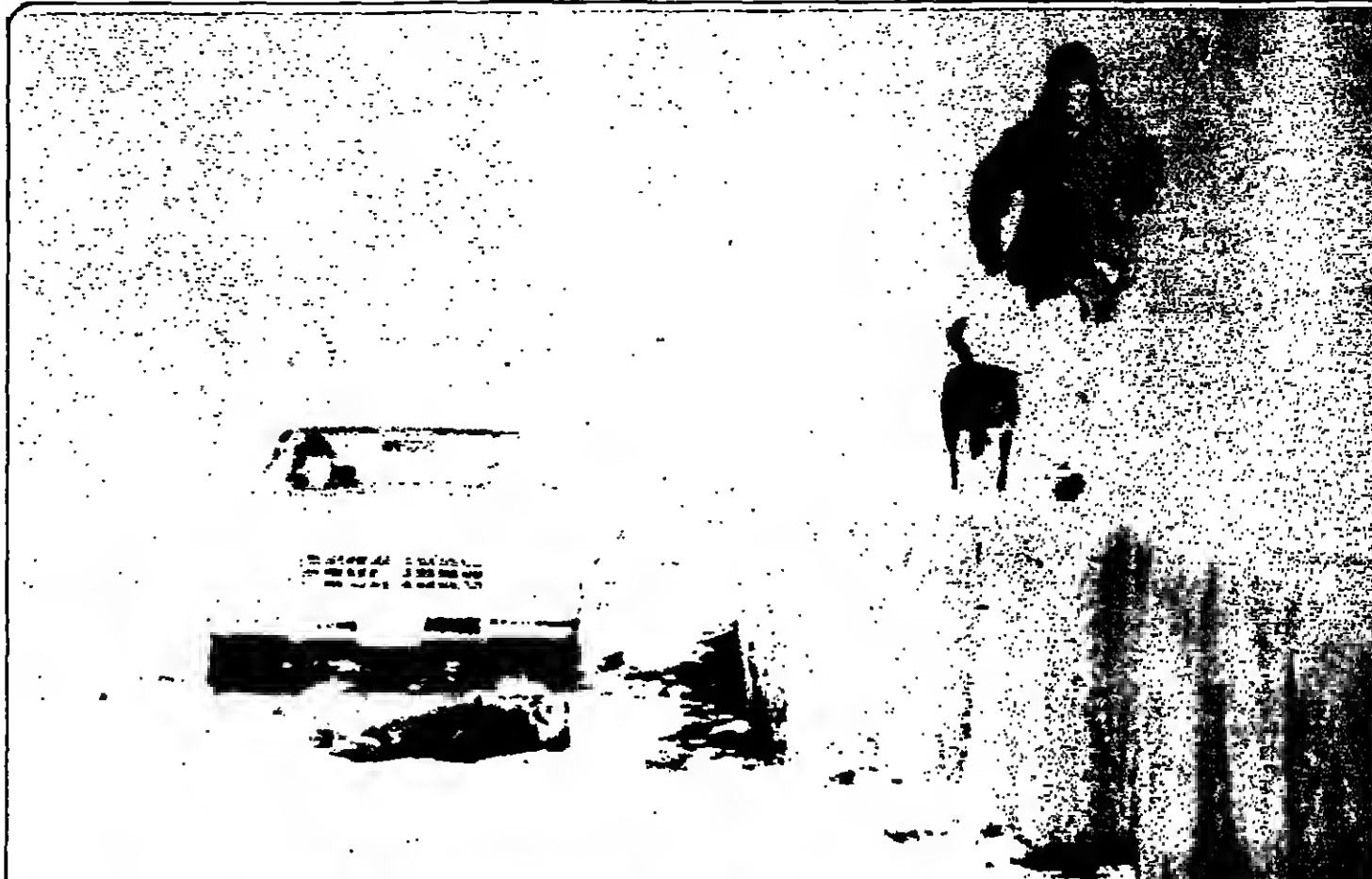
NAVARE, Ohio, Feb. 15 (AP) — Thirty-nine years after he died, Army Lt. Charles Robert Steiner was buried by his family and honored as an unforgetting hero.

"I'm glad we have him back here," said his sister, Velma Zimmerman, after the weekend funeral and burial here, as she clutched a flag that had draped his casket. Steiner was 26 in 1944 when his plane went down in the jungles of New Guinea. The wreckage was not found until last April, and identification was completed last month.

On Saturday, Steiner's remains lay in a casket at the rear of a church and about 100 persons paid their last respects. There were no tears, just stoic faces, as they listened to Harold Henniger Eulogize Steiner and others who died in the combat.

"Most of us in this sanctuary lived through World War II," Henniger said. "I came back, and so did my brothers. But a lot didn't. We had a real love for this nation, and so did Robert," he said.

Mrs. Zimmerman recalled, "the last day he left for overseas, I can still see him going down the steps. It was going through my mind that I might never see him again."



UNMOVED JOGGER: Police sit in their squad car to guard the body lying in front of the vehicle as a jogger and his dog pass the scene along Chicago's Lakefront Monday without even a second glance. The body was not identified and the death was believed due to natural causes. Temperature along Lakefront reached a high of 40 degrees Monday.

Mass murder case U.K. search uncovers bones

LONDON, Feb. 15 (AP) — Thirty police trainees, scraping through waste ground with their fingers, uncovered "a significant amount of human bones" Tuesday behind the north London house where police believe 14 mass murder victims lie buried.

Detective chief Supt. Norman Briers, leading the search, said the bones were six inches or smaller, but gave no other details. He said the search area around 195 Melrose Ave. in the Cricklewood district will be extended. "They have found a significant amount of human bone together with a large quantity of personal clothing," he added, however, that the clothing could have been dumped there by people from neighboring houses.

Briers disclosed that detectives digging in the garden of the house also found part of a jawbone with some teeth attached Tuesday. This could be a vital clue because it will able police to identify the apparent victim through dental records.

The cadets were called in from nearby Hendon police college to comb a thickly

weeded 60-foot strip of waste ground behind the garden of the two-story Melrose Avenue house.

The trainees, working on their hands and knees in near-freezing temperatures, were aiding detectives who have already dug up a pile of human bones in the yard.

Police suspect the bodies of 13 or 14 drifters are buried around the house where they were butchered in what is shaping up to be Britain's worst mass murder case.

"The cadets have only been training for three months, but they know what to do," a senior officer told reporters. "They're very keen."

Detective chief Supt. Geoffrey Chambers, the Scotland Yard officer leading the mass murder investigation, disclosed Monday night that detectives have established possible identities for six of those believed slain since 1975. He declined to release the names culled from a list of 2,000 men missing in London since 1975, but said detectives were trying to contact relatives.

Reagan to promote army spending

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's aides, looking for ways to boost domestic support for the administration's defense budget, are embarking on a new program intended to publicize the reasons behind various elements of America's military spending.

The administration hired as a consultant William Greener, a deputy White House press secretary and assistant secretary of defense for public affairs in the administration of President Gerald Ford.

Deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said Greener, a vice president of a pharmaceutical company and a 20-year veteran of Washington public-relations work, was asked to work, as was a consultant "to develop some ideas with regard to the defense budget."

Speakes said that "certain public opinion polls indicate the support of the defense build up is not as strong" as it was when Reagan first took office.

Greener said William Clark, Reagan's national security adviser, "asked me to come in a look at ways to explain the defense

budget to the American people."

Meanwhile, top U.S. military officials are expected to approve production of the controversial F-18 jet for carrier-based bombing missions but a decision on the ultimate number to be bought probably will hinge on navy studies, navy and defense sources said Monday.

In a related development, the Reagan administration might challenge Congressmen's favorite military projects if they press too hard for cuts in the defense budget, a key defense official says.

The official, who spoke on condition that he remain anonymous, told the Associated Press that the Defense Department might propose a list of U.S. military bases for closing. The bases located around the country are considered prestige- and job-producing plants for the members of Congress who have them in their home districts.

But he said the department might make such a move "if the heat gets heavy" in the budget battle. "We've got a list of bases we'd like to get rid of," he said.

Hinckley regains consciousness

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP) — John W. Hinckley Jr., the man who shot President Ronald Reagan, regained consciousness Monday as authorities continued to probe how he got the chemicals used in his third apparent suicide attempt since he has been in custody.

Hinckley, 27, had been taking the anti-depressant drug imipramine. But Wayne Pines, a spokesman for the psychiatric hospital where Hinckley had been held before his latest brush with death, said patients are supposed to be under the watch of attendants whenever they take medication.

Hinckley was found semi-conscious Sunday on the floor of his room at St. Elizabeth's

Hospital, where he had been confined since his acquittal by reason of insanity last June. Officials said he was close to dying. Since then, his condition has not permitted questioning about what he took or how he got it, Pines said. Hinckley was moved to intensive care at Southeast Community Hospital, guarded by U.S. marshals and observed by psychiatrists.

The episode marked Hinckley's third apparent suicide attempt since he was seized after shooting Reagan. White House press secretary James Brady, a secret service agent and a Washington policeman March 30, 1981.

S. Africa denies hand in bombing

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 15 (AP) — South Africa has denied it bombed a fuel depot in Lesotho and said allegations by the mountain kingdom of South African involvement were "baseless charges... made to obscure the critical internal situation in Lesotho."

The South African comment came in a statement released by the Foreign Affairs Ministry late Monday night. The South African Press Association, meanwhile, reported it received a telephone call from a man identifying himself as a member of the Lesotho Liberation Army, claiming responsibility for the blast that destroyed some 200,000 liters of petroleum products, six fuel tanks and an adjacent steel products factory in Maseru.

The Lesotho Liberation Army is the military wing of the Lesotho Congress Party, the chief opponent of Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government. Jonathan's government says South Africa hacks the Liberation Army, which has claimed responsibility for at least seven bomb attacks since November.

Lesotho said it held South Africa directly responsible for the blast late Sunday.

	Min	Max		Min	Max
	C	F		C	F
Amsterdam	-7	19	0	32	clear
Athens	7	45	16	61	clear
Bahrain	14	57	22	72	cloudy
Bangkok	24	75	32	90	clear
Barcelona	22	72	30	86	clear
Beirut	12	54	20	68	clear
Belgrade	-2	28	0	32	cloudy
Berlin	-6	21	-4	25	clear
Brussels	-4	25	0	32	clear
Buenos Aires	-19	60	25	77	rain
Cairo	12	54	25	77	cloudy
Chicago	-1	30	7	45	cloudy
Copenhagen	-4	25	2	36	clear
Dublin	3	37	6	43	cloudy
Frankfurt	-5	23	-1	30	cloudy
Geneva	-4	25	3	37	cloudy
Havana	19	66	23	73	clear
Helsinki	-16	3	-6	21	clear
Hong Kong	14	57	15	59	cloudy
Honolulu	15	59	27	81	clear
Jakarta	25	77	32	90	cloudy
Kuala Lumpur	23	73	34	93	rain
London	1	34	3	37	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	55	22	72	clear
Madrid	10	50	14	57	clear
Manila	18	64	22	72	clear
Mexico City	7	45	23	73	clear
Miami	16	61	22	72	clear
Montreal	-8	18	4	39	cloudy
Moscow	-10	14	-9	16	clear
New Delhi	13	55	24	75	cloudy
New York	-2	28	4	39	clear
Nicosia	6	43	18	64	cloudy
Ozlo	0	32	3	37	clear
Paris	1	34	4	39	clear
Peking	-8	18	4	39	clear
Rio de Janeiro	21	70	34	93	cloudy
Roma	2	36	14	57	clear
San Francisco	9	48	16	61	cloudy
Sao Paulo	-2	28	3	37	clear
Singapore	25	77	33	91	clear
Stockholm	-1	30	-7	19	clear
Sydney	21	70	29	84	cloudy
Taipei	13	55	16	61	rain
Tokyo	1	34	14	57	clear
Toronto	-6	21	6	43	clear

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